

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# A taste of Scotland comes to Bathurst: Pipers, Drummers and Dancers get ready for the largest Highland Gathering in Central NSW

As a highlight on the Scottish Highland Gathering calendar for NSW and Australia for the past 26 years, the favourite Bathurst event will continue to be held on the Scots Campus O'Connell Road but this year with a new name - Scots All Saints College Highland Gathering.

Thousands of highland gathering fans from across the State and Australia are expected to join the festivities for one big day in Bathurst on Sunday 24 March as the Scots All Saints Highland Gathering introduces a fabulous line up of competitions, market stalls, rides, local produce, food and drink and entertainment to thrill the whole family.

From 2019, Scots All Saints College is bringing a new era in regional NSW education, following the merger off two longstanding schools in Bathurst - All Saints' College and The Scots School. With more than 218 combined years of educational excellence in NSW, the College community seeks to preserve the heritage and culture of both schools including the popular, longstanding Highland Gathering event.

Headmaster, Mr David Gates said each year the community event draws crowds of up to 5,000 and the first ever Scots All Saints College Highland Gathering is expected to be even bigger and better with everyone welcome to join in the fun.

“Our Highland Gathering event is set on the picturesque grounds of 150 acres at the Scots Campus on the Sydney side of Bathurst. We are conveniently located for families travelling from Sydney, ACT, Central Coast, regional NSW or Southern Highlands to come along to make a day trip or weekend getaway.

“Organised by the friends, parents and students of the College, Scots All Saints College Highland Gathering is one of the biggest social and fundraising events for families of the College with all visitors warmly welcomed to enjoy a great family day out.

“The outstanding Pipe Band Competition attracts top Pipe Bands from across NSW for a round of the Pipe Bands NSW State Championships. The Strongman Competition, run by Highland Muscle will return and an Equestrian event will also run this year on the Front Oval.

“The day provides an opportunity for our Pipes and Drums under the leadership of Mr Gill MacKenzie and Drum Tutor, Mr Millaine Longmore, to compete and interact with the other bands. The Highland

Gathering also includes Dancing Presentations from local dance schools and our own Highland Dancers under the tutelage of Mrs Kim Durie and Mrs Mary Weber,” Mr Gates said.

Featured events include:

- Strongman Competition
- Pipe Band Competition as a round in the Pipe Bands NSW State Championships
- Weight over the bar: a 56lbs (25.4 kg) weight to be thrown overhead to a height with one arm. Women throw a weight of 26lbs (11.8 kg).
- Heavy weight for distance: A weight is thrown one handed inside an area with a trig – 56lbs for men, 28lbs for women
- Light weight for distance: 28lbs for men, 16lbs for women
- Natural stone putt
- Caber toss: the athlete must turn the caber 180 degrees trying to have the end land as close as possible to 12 o’clock.
- Keg toss (not a traditional event): athletes throw 5 empty beer kegs over a 3.6 m high bar as fast as possible. Fastest time wins.
- Stone Lifting: Lifting stones are embedded in Scottish history, with records as early as 1020 recording King Malcolm Canmore’s embryonic Highland Games including them as a strength challenge. *Clach cuid fir*, Gaelic for manhood stones, were used as a rite of passage to accept young men into adulthood.
- Highland Dancing is a celebration of the Scottish spirit. It requires great strength, neat positioned footwork, co-ordination of arm and head positions and a strong upright body. Local dance schools generously showcase various forms of dance on the event stage.

Mr Gates said: “We are aiming to bring a wee taste of Scotland to the Central West. Mark your calendars now for Sunday 24 March from 10am-4pm. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful community event.”

Scots All Saints College offers diverse educational programs and outstanding co-curricular opportunities for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. It is not too late to enrol to join us in our inaugural year as a First family and Foundation student in our new College. Annual scholarship opportunities in Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancing provide an excellent way to access independent education while pursuing your passion for music. Please contact Scots All Saints College on 02 6331 3911 or visit [www.scotsallsaints.nsw.edu.au](http://www.scotsallsaints.nsw.edu.au)

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