

PROGRAMME | FENIANS FESTIVAL 2026



23rd-31st March 2026

CELEBRATING THE CATALPA ESCAPE 150TH

www.fremantlefenians.com.au

In 1876 Australia's most daring maritime prison break took place in Fremantle and Rockingham. Six Irish political prisoners, Fenians, were rescued by the American whaling ship Catalpa. Their escape to freedom is full of intrigue, daring and drama. Join us to commemorate and celebrate!



Book for all events via TryBooking

trybooking.com/eventlist/fenianfestival2026catalpa150th



Fremantle Fenians



Fenians Fremantle & Freedom

MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026

Book Launch

Catalpa: Escape to Freedom by Mike & Joy Lefroy
6pm | Fremantle Prison

Catalpa: Flight to Freedom

Immersive CinePlay

Presented by Theatre 180 & WA Museum

7pm - 8.45pm | Fremantle Prison

Tickets: \$65 Conc: \$60 Juniors: \$35

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026

Irish poet Tony Curtis

*Tony Curtis is a master craftsman conjuring striking images
out of the ordinariness of words.*

2pm - 3.45pm | Venue: Samson Family Theatrette

Tickets: \$15 & \$10

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

History Symposium

Speakers & Panels

Hosted by Buffalo Club & The University of Notre Dame

10-4.30pm | Buffalo Club

Tickets: \$40 & \$35 (includes lunch)

Fiona Doyle and Friends

Trad Music Session

5pm | Ladies Lounge Buffalo Club

The Ocean Waifs

Music with Tommy O'Brien and friends

7.30pm | Upstairs Buffalo Club

Tickets: \$25

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

Oral History in the Pub

Fenian history custodians sharing their
stories and Q & A

11am - 4pm

Declan O' Rourke in Concert

Internationally renowned Irish singer, songwriter
will perform his only Australian concert,
here in Perth, under the stars.

Support Artist: Fiona Rea

Quarry Amphitheatre

Tickets: \$75

Gates open 6pm | Concert starts 7pm

**FREMANTLE
FENIANS**



SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026

Fenian's Festival Family Day

WA Maritime Museum | Entry by Donation

Catalpa Tour

11am-12pm | 1-2pm | 3-4pm

Model Boat Building Workshops

10-11am | 12.15am - 1.15pm | 2-3pm

Enjoy learning Irish Dance and Song with Torc Céilí

11-12pm | 1-2pm

Face Painting

1-4pm

Craft Activities

10-2pm

Kids Story Time

10.30 - 12.30pm

Shamrock Trail

10-4pm

Film Screening

Song of the Sea

1.30 - 3.05pm

Live Podcast | The Catalpa Escape

Michael Barker, *Fremantle Shipping News*, interviews international guest Jim Ryan, Captain Anthony's Great Grandson.

4-5pm | Tickets: \$10 Conc: \$8 Juniors: \$8

Irish Night at Clancy's

Clancy's Fish Pub, Cantonment Street

5pm Onwards

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2026

An Evening with Jim Ryan

Great Grandson of Catalpa Captain George Anthony

With Sean Roach

7-9pm | The Mighty Quinn Tavern, Yokine

Tickets: \$10 (numbers limited) | Call Fred Rea 0418943832