

Your step by step guide to the Stones

How to tour and understand them

- And the stone on the marker's southern side is the **Brythonic Stone, No. 28**, for Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.
- Viewed from above, the five "stars" of the **Southern Cross** are formed by the **four cardinal stones** - Nos. 1, 22, 13, 30 marking north, south, east and west - and the **Melling family Stone, No. 17**, inside the circle.
- Viewed also from above, those **four cardinal stones** and the **circle of 24 stones** form the **Celtic or Ionic Cross**, the symbol of the early Christian Church and still used on Roman Catholic Churches today.

Finding Southern Cross

- From the marker in the centre of the array, look to the **northeast** through the **avenue of six stones, Nos. 7, 6, 5, 8, 9, 10** - that alignment with the sun's beams mark the **dawn of the winter solstice**.
- From the same position, look to the **southeast, to the right of the Melling or No. 17 Stone**, for the alignment and shadows cast for the **dawn of the summer solstice**.

Marking the solstices

- Again from the marker, look to the **west, beyond the Gaelic Stone, No. 35, and immediately to the right of Stone 34** for the alignment and shadows for the **winter solstice sunset**.
- Then look **southwest, through the Australis Stone, No. 31, and Brythonic Stone, No. 28**, to the **Ritchie family or No. 27 Stone** for the alignment and shadows for the **summer solstice sunset**.

• Continued overhead - and for diagram of Stones

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Begin at 3 central Stones

We begin the tour in the centre of the array at the small survey marker and the three central stones...

- The stone closest to the survey marker is the **Australis Stone, No. 31**, for all Australians and symbolising the link between the old and new worlds.
- The stone on the northern side of the marker is the **Gaelic Stone, No. 35**, for Scotland, Ireland and Isle of Man.

Great Britain has hundreds of mysterious stone circles and they are found, too, in Brittany, in coastal France - but the Australian Standing Stones in Glen Innes are probably the first of their kind built anywhere in the world for 3500 years.

They are also unique in the southern hemisphere and reflect Glen Innes's heritage where the first settlers, largely Scots, arrived in 1838. The Stones are the official national monument to Australia's Celtic pioneers and venue for the annual Australian Celtic Festival.

The ancient Celts raised stones as calendars to mark the seasons - when to sow, when to harvest - and they later developed religious significance. Strange myths and legends surround the stones in Europe and while no such claims are made for the Australian Standing Stones, some visitors have felt a powerful, spiritual, influence as they walked through the array. The Australian Standing Stones comprise 40 granite monoliths. Of these, there is a **circle of 24 stones** representing 24 hours of the day, **three central stones**, **four cardinal stones** marking true north, east, south and west, and **seven stones** marking summer and winter solstices, the longest and shortest days of the year.



The history of this unique array

The Australian Standing Stones began as an ambitious project by a small, dedicated group of citizens who wanted to mark Glen Innes's Celtic heritage. It was in Australia's 1988 Bicentenary Year that the Celtic Council of Australia developed the idea of erecting a national monument to honour all Celtic peoples who helped pioneer Australia.

Glen Innes responded with a submission for the Australian Standing Stones, inspired by the Ring of Brodgar in Scotland's Orkneys.

In announcements from Scotland by David Donnelly, then Glen Innes's Mayor, and from Sydney by Peter Alexander, then convener of the Celtic Council of Australia, it was official: Glen Innes was chosen. But no money came with the right to build the Stones.

John Tregurtha, a pharmacist, chairman of the committee delegated to build the array, and Lex Ritchie, then the town's tourist officer and an expert bushman, spent three months scouring the bush within 50km of Glen Innes for the stones.

They had to stand 3.7 metres from ground level, which meant each to be 5.5 metres in total length. They found only three stones which could be used in their natural state - others had to be split from larger rock bodies. A former Snowy Mountains Scheme worker and local alderman George Rozynski, who at 17 migrated with his family from Poland, came up with the solution. He remembered his rock drilling work on the Snowy and heard of a new expanding compound which could split rocks without using explosives. With another alderman, Bill Tyson, he spent hours in the bush drilling massive granite rocks.

"The compound was a powder which was mixed to the consistency of a slurry and poured into the drill holes," Mr Rozynski recalled. "When we returned the next morning the rock was cracked..." It took more than six months of further effort, spearheaded by Bob Dwyer, who went on to become Glen Innes's Mayor, and businessman Ted Nowlan, using a 12 tonne forklift and other heavy equipment to load and transport the stones on a timber loader to the Centennial Parklands site. The stones averaged 17 tonnes.

Sponsors were invited to pay \$1000 each to help defray the cost of the Stones. Clans, families and others from across Australia and the world responded and within a fortnight all were snapped up. The three central Stones were excluded from sponsorship: the Australis Stone for all Australians, the Gaelic Stone for Gaelic-speaking Celts from Ireland, Scotland the Isle of Man, and the Brythonic Stone for the Brythonic-speaking Celts of Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

The Australian Standing Stones were officially opened by the then NSW Governor, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, on February 1, 1992. Increasingly, the Standing Stones are becoming known throughout Australia and the World because of the success of the Australian Celtic festival and continual media exposure.

As well as being the National Monument to Australia's Celtic pioneers, they are recognised by the Celtic Council of Australia as the national gathering point for Celtic descendants and clans. They have also, through the Australian Celtic Festival's success, attracted government funding to help promote further Celtic events throughout the year.

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Venue for Celtic Festival

The Australian Standing Stones are the venue for the annual Australian Celtic Festival held on the first weekend in May. The festival attracts clans, national groups, pipe bands, artists and spectators from a wide area of the nation.

Highlights include the Saturday street parade, Celtic dancers, concerts, storytellers, yard dog trials and the traditional Kirking of the Tartan.

Celebrations spill over to hotels and restaurants which offer Celtic fare and entertainment.

The festival has become so successful that organisers now plan further Celtic events throughout the year.

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More information? For more information on the Australian Standing Stones, the Australian Celtic Festival and tourist attractions in Glen Innes Severn Shire, contact:

Glen Innes Visitor Information Centre,
Phone: (02) 6732 2397, fax: (02) 6732 6090,
email: tourism@gleninnes.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.GlenInnesTourism.com

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GLEN INNES SEVERN SHIRE
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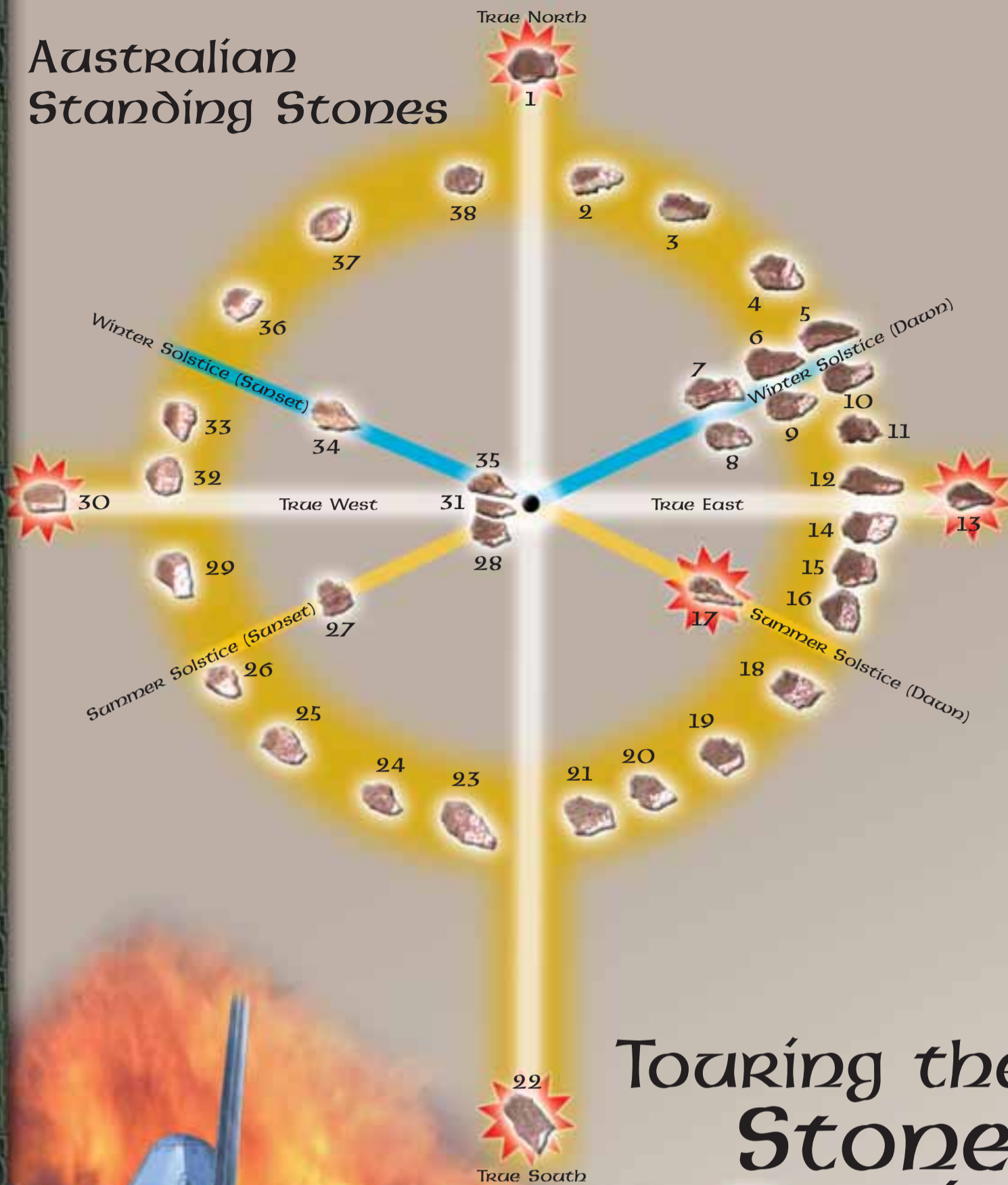
GUIDE TO THE Australian Standing Stones

The Australian Standing Stones are located 1.3 kms East of the New England Highway, on the right hand side of the Gwydir Highway overlooking the town of Glen Innes in Centennial Parklands, signs all the way.

How to reach them

www.GlenInnesTourism.com

Australian Standing Stones



Sponsors -and key to the Stones

These are the sponsors of the Australian Standing Stones. You will also find it a useful key to identify the Stones.

Stone	Sponsor
1	W.S. and W.F.F. MacLENNAN
2	CLAN TRIBUTE TO JAMES MARTIN
3	Y GYMDEITHAS GYMREIG SYD. CYF
4	CLAN FERGUSSON, BLAIRGOWRIE
5	ALEXANDER STONE
6	STEPHEN REGAN DARK FAMILIES
7	KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL, WAHROONGA
8	CLAN CAMERON IN AUSTRALIA
9	FERGUSSON FAMILY, HOBART 1813
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11	ADAMSON-McKELLAR FAMILIES
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15	CURNOW FAMILY, CORNWALL
16	CLAN JOHNSTONE, AUSTRALIA
17	MELLING FAMILY
18	ALEX.-MARY McLENNAN, PLOCKTON
19	CITY OF TAMWORTH, NSW
20	CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY, NSW
21	CLANN DHAIBHIDH, THE DAVIDSONS
22	MALCOLM AND WENDY BROWN, SCOTLAND
23	ELIZABETH FOTHERINGHAM COPE
24	CATHERINE LOUGHLIN KELLY, EIRE
25	HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF NSW
26	McLAREN FAMILY, SCOTLAND
27	RITCHIE FAMILY, GLEN INNES
28	BRYTHONIC STONE
29	MacDIARMIDS IN AUSTRALIA
30	ROBERT BURNS SOCIETIES
31	AUSTRALIS STONE
32	CLANN de BURCA, WEST O'IRELAND
33	CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF NSW
34	WALKER/COOPER FAMILIES, SCOTLAND/ENGLAND
35	GAELIC STONE
36	BRITISH AIRWAYS, AUSTRALIA
37	CLAN MACKENZIE CUIDICH 'N RIGH
38	TREGURTHA, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA
39	IRISH STONE
40	GORSEDD STONE

Touring the Stones step by step



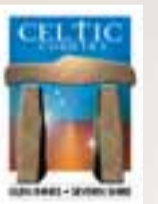
Beyond...Tynwald Hill

- Beyond the **Ogham Stone** is a sign marking Tynwald Hill. The Manx Parliament, "**Tynwald**" is the longest continually serving Parliament in the World.
- On Tynwald Hill is a "**Wall of History**" being created with stones from historical sites from all over the Celtic world. Twenty five sites have been reserved for a stone from each of the 25 original stock runs taken up in 1838/9 in the Glen Innes area.

Sponsors who helped defray the cost of the Australian Standing Stones are recorded in a plaque inserted in stone to the right of the hill's steps.

Crofter's Cottage, on the edge of the Australian Standing Stones, built of basalt rock, is a replica of a *Taigh Dubh*, the small stone "black house" of the early Celtic peoples. Some of these still survive in Scotland and elsewhere.

Crofter's Cottage was inspired from photographs of such a cottage that survived the 1746 Battle of Culloden. Crofter's Cottage sells refreshments and Celtic souvenirs.



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Cornish, Welsh, Irish Stones

- To the west of the central Gaelic Stone, No. 35, and on the edge of the circle is the **Cornish Stone, No. 33**.
- Looking south from the marker, the distinctive, flat stone, beyond the stone marking true south, No. 22, is the **Gorsedd Stone, No. 40**, requested by the Welsh and Cornish.

When these communities held Bardic festivals, winners or "bards" were installed on a stone stage something like this Gorsedd Stone. Today, Welsh choirs gather around the stone for performances during the Australian Celtic Festival.

- To the east of the **Gorsedd Stone**, the tall, squarish stone, weightiest of the Australian Standing Stones at 38 tonnes, is the **Irish Stone, No. 39**. Observe on the square edges an inscription in the Ogham language, one of the first written languages, consisting of lines, short, long or sloping.

The inscription translates in Gaelic as: Glenn Maqi Aongusa, "the Glen of the Sons of Angus", or, more simply, *Glen Innes*.



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