

SURVIVAL DAY 2009

Performers Bios



BEVAN BAXTER (Storytelling and Art Workshops)

BEVAN'S from the YAMATJI group of the Western Australian coast - and is a VISUAL ARTIST. He uses a range of media - expressing concepts from contemporary and traditional themes that are based upon his own experience - and those continuously living through his Dreaming. He's worked in a number of schools around South Australia - and integrates storytelling with art and music.

BETTY and MONTY SUMNER

Betty Sumner is a singer, actor, performer, artist, storyteller and cultural Ngarrindjeri weaver. Her background includes performing in Canada, Japan, Noumea, and around Australia. A Ngarrindjeri woman - she has presented numerous weaving workshops - including in Malaysia; and was a part of the recent Seven Sisters exhibition 2008 in Port Augusta. One of her major pieces - entitled - *Unfinished Business* - represents the Seven Sisters Dreaming - will be a part of her workshop display for Survival Day.

Monty - a young NGARRINDJERI / GUNDITJMARA person - is an emerging singer/songwriter based in Adelaide studying guitar at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music - Adelaide University. His main passion is alternative rock fusion music, and is currently in the development stages of forming a band. For Survival Day he'll be presenting a few acoustic rock songs.

CYCLONE SUN

Cyclone Sun is a deadly rock outfit - a goodtime band to be enjoyed by all - playing songs written by lead vocalist Kel Rankine with messages of hope and sharing reflections about future dreams for the people.

Their message is backed up with 'good old Rock 'n' Roll covers - with the talents of Andy Harris on lead guitar, Jason Ayers-White on drums, and Matt Napolitano on bass. All these great musicians have over 15 years of experience, and have played with lots of bands across the state.

IOELENE RANKINE (Face Painting)

She's from RAUKKAN - and is of NGARRINDJERI HERITAGE. In 2007, she completed the Indigenous Women's Leadership programme - she has completed the Cert IV in Indigenous Research Evaluation - and also a Diploma in Children's Services.

IOELENE currently works at the ARMSU - the Aboriginal Resource Management and Support Unit - the resource centre - where she teaches children and staff many aspects of Aboriginal Culture including stories, dancing, singing, art and crafts and music.

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KARNAGE AND DARKNIS

KARNAGE is a WESTERN ARRENTE Aboriginal man from HERMANSBERG near Alice Springs. He began his hip-hop career in high school, and has produced and performed his material at festivals and community events around Adelaide and the Northern Territory.

As well as performing, he's been involved in teaching Indigenous youth through rap camps and workshops. Now based in Adelaide, KARNAGE'S highlight performances include the ALICE SPRINGS FESTIVAL, FRINGE FESTIVAL FUSION, BLAKNITE; the DREAMING FESTIVAL and the SPIRIT FESTIVAL 2008.

DARKNIS is a NGARRINDJERI woman who began her career in hip-hop in 2007 at the BLAKNITE FESTIVAL. Her love and passion for music has led to a growing reputation in the Adelaide hip-hop scene.

KERIBA SAGUL - (meaning - OUR DANCE)

KERIBA SAGUL brings us traditional Torres Strait Islander dance and songs from the eastern and western islands. Keriba Sagul was established at CASM, and have performed for many years at festivals, events, government functions, and ceremonies. The members of Keriba Sagul who can be with us here for Survival Day are Eddie Peters and Sam Nona.

KERIBA WED - (meaning: OUR SONG)

Bringing a new style of modern music from the Torres Strait Islands - Keriba Wed uses traditional harmonies, melodies and stories they have adapted from traditional songs into the contemporary context. The songs are about lifestyle and work on the islands and include love songs, songs about the pearling industry, and also about the Second World War.

Eddie Peters - a performer of traditional TSI dance and music - is from Thursday Island. He is a singer/songwriter and his background includes being a lecturer in music studies at CASM; and giving cultural presentations at Tandanya and schools around Adelaide. In 2006 and 2008 Eddie received the Services and Leadership Community Award from the Adelaide Aboriginal Catholic Ministry; and in 1999 was awarded the South Australian Mr NAIDOC Award.

Jardine Kiwat is from Darnley Island in the eastern Torres Strait - and has been drumming since he was 9 years old. Amongst many other musical achievements, Jardine's background includes composing for a collaborative project with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and playing in numerous bands including Kineman Karma; Trochus; and Fish Trap. Along with being a drummer with Yothu Yindi - Jardine also played with SANTANA on their SHAMAN tour in 2003. From 1985 - 2008 he was the Coordinator of Policy and External Relations at the Centre of Aboriginal Studies in Music - at Adelaide University - and is now a freelance drummer.

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KINEMAN KARMA

KINEMAN KARMA was formed in early 2002 by creative director and establishing member – front man Ringo Rigney - who is a NGARRINDJERI man with a big voice and a strong message. The band has won two South Australian Music Industry Awards - for Most Popular Indigenous Act, and also for Best Indigenous Act.

The song writing, arrangements, and line-up of KINEMAN KARMA has evolved into a powerful cultural and artistic mix. The message of KINEMAN KARMA includes documenting traditional and contemporary Ngarrindjeri culture, political issues, the education of reconciliation and most of all the UNITY OF ALL PEOPLE. Their vision is to form a world class reggae band as a platform to deliver their strong messages and showcase the talents of some of South Australia's leading Indigenous musicians.

Band members come from all over the country – with the line up including NGARRINDJERI; NGARRINDJERI / BARNGARLA; BUNDJALONG; MIRRIUM; and CAUCASIAN AUSTRALIANS.

KUMA KARRO

KUMA KARRO – is an Aboriginal dance group from KAURNA country – who will be sharing traditional dance with us. These young men are of KAURNA – NARUNGGA – and NGARRINDJERI backgrounds - all with KAURNA family ties. KUMA KARRO means “One Blood” – and began in 2007 as a dance program led by JAMIE NGUNGANA GOLDSMITH AND VINCENT JACK KANYA BUCKSKIN - with help from Arts SA. The group is based at the Kaurna Plains School in the northern suburbs, and is committed to educating the community and sharing Kaurna culture, learning and performing many dances and songs in Kaurna language.

THE KURRURU DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Kurruru Dance Ensemble is made up of proud and deadly young Nunga dancers. Based out of the Kurruru Youth Performing Arts in Port Adelaide the Ensemble performs original contemporary Aboriginal dance as well as hip-hop and street styles. Graceful, strong, inspiring and passionate - the dancers have performed at a large number of events, function and openings including - WOMADelaide in 2007 & 2008 - the Adelaide Bank Festival of the Arts in 2008 - the World Police and Fire Games in 2007 - World Youth Day 2008 – YARNBALLA FESTIVAL 2008 in Port Augusta, and recently at SPIRIT FESTIVAL.

THE MERRg

The MERRg is a band that really does merge – seamlessly – Aboriginal acoustic roots music from the Australian desert, with the Torres Strait Islands.

Best described as a ‘groovy soothing cultural cocktail’ – the MERRg were not only finalists in the 2006 and 2007 Music Oz awards – but they recently won the Toronto Exclusive Magazine International Music Award for best International World Music CD – with one of the songs from that CD also winning Best World Music Song. That CD, called ‘*Introducing...*’ has also received airplay on radio stations across Australia.

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The MERRg have brought their smooth acoustic reggae rock sound to a number of festivals and events to include the 2007 and 2008 DREAMING FESTIVALS; SURVIVAL DAY 2008; NAIDOC EVENTS; RECONCILIATION EVENTS; YARNBALLA FESTIVAL; AND THE SPIRIT FESTIVAL 2008.

NGARRINDJERI BOYZ

The Ngarrindjeri Boyz - from Murray Bridge - was formed in 2007 - to give young Aboriginal men music as a way of expression. They have since been instrumental in writing, mixing and producing over 10 songs around issues which affect them in everyday life. Since the inception of Ngarrindjeri Boyz - a core group has decided to expand - so that they can continue to create the opportunity to work together to share their messages through music.

ONE BLOOD HIDDEN IMAGE

The members of One Blood Hidden Image represent the Torres Strait Islands in Far North Queensland. Each member of this five piece group comes from one of the five Torres Strait Island groups - and each member is also connected to the other island groups by other significant cultural connections in their own family histories.

One Blood Hidden Image is headed up by Patrick Mau aka Maupower - who is also the grandson of well known Torres Strait Islander music legend Seaman Dan. This group of 5 young artists all sing about the different perspectives of Torres Strait Islander culture and lifestyles. They merge their cultures with the western cultures - both the Good and the Bad - speaking for the youth and expressing through the art of Hip-Hop. Their aim is to reach the youth - especially the ones in remote areas - to show them that it doesn't matter where you are from and where you live - if you strive hard enough and work hard enough - you can achieve anything - and that talent and dreams should not be ignored and taken for granted - because you just might have the talent to make a difference in your community.

For Survival Day, two of the members of One Blood Hidden Image have made a special journey down to Adelaide to be here with us at Survival Day Patrick Mau and Damien Fujii.

SISTA ACT - WOMEN OF COUNTRY

SISTA ACT - WOMEN OF COUNTRY is a group of dynamic, fun, passionate, deadly sisters - Lizzie Hurrell, Tania Axleby-Blake, Raquel Kerdel, Rebecca Webb, Kaylene Kerdel, Christine Egan and Joanne Leonello.

The group originally came together with twenty other Aboriginal women to develop and perform a theatre piece for the ADELAIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL in 2007, and went on to perform the piece for NAIDOC Week later that year.

Their songs are a humorous celebration and acknowledgement of Aboriginal women, culture, community and the many issues facing Aboriginal people today and throughout history.

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SISTA SOUL

Sista Soul is Doris De la Cruz and Bona Simeki. Previous performances from these deadly musicians include the Festival of the Dreaming 2006, the launch for Aboriginal Arts, Brisbane Museum 2006, and the Feast Festival 2005 – just to name a few. They play Reggae, Soul, Jazz Funk fusion and R/B – and have recorded and toured with several bands in Australia and overseas in Japan and the UK.

STEPHANIE GOLLAN (Art Workshops)

Auntie Stephanie Gollan is a proud Ngarrindjeri woman who specialises in the intricate coiled basket weaving and wood technologies of her people. For many years she has shared her skills – running workshops at major events and for numerous organisations, including Tandanya – telling traditional Dreaming stories as she teaches her craft. Workshops she has run include creating traditional jewellery, baskets, and fish nets, weaving and painting. For Survival Day Auntie Stephanie will be running jewellery and art workshops all day.

WARREN MILERA BAND

WARREN is a NARRUNNGGA – ADNYAMATHANHA singer/songwriter based in Adelaide. He has numerous awards to his name - both state-wide and nationally. He first released his debut album in 2002 and is currently working on his long awaited second album.

WARREN performed at the 2002 Adelaide City Muster in a line up which included Beccy Cole, Jimmy Little, Lee Kernaghan and Kasey Chambers - and he also won the famous Telstra Road to Tamworth Heat for SA back in 2003. He was crowned back-to-back best male country music artist for South Australia in 2005 and 2006, has played on the beaches of Hawaii and at an International conference in Edmonton Canada.

WARREN has performed countless times in SA, and around the country – including the Tamworth Country Music Festival. His music has had lots of airplay around the country on most of Australia's Indigenous radios stations - and in mid 2004 WARREN toured as support act for Daryl Braithwaite on the South Australia leg of his national tour.