

MEDIA RELEASE

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FRESH SOUNDS FOR THE CENTRAL SANDS IN SEPTEMBER

Mambali from Numbulwar are headlining this year's Sand Tracks tour, which will feature a collection of young and fresh sounds.

11 years ago, in a remote coastal community on the edge of the Gulf Of Carpentaria, the musicians of Mambali first played together, that same year Sand Tracks began touring renowned Aboriginal musicians across state borders in the central desert, and this year the two will finally join together.

Mambali fuse their traditional cultural songs and rhythms with contemporary sounds and beats to create a pulsating performance that has wowed local audiences since 2008. Their traditional songs are about country, culture and the Dhumbul Dance (Devil Dance) but are performed with contemporary arrangements, edge and energy.

Mambali frontman Bradley Bara is ready to hit the road: "The band is very excited about touring with Sand Tracks across central Australia. Everyone is looking forward to meeting new musicians and travelling to the desert communities."

While on tour Mambali will be playing alongside and mentoring the rapidly rising stars; the Barkly Drifters. The members of this four piece fusion of country-blues and desert sounds are heavily influenced by the bands within their community and grew up surrounded by music, through their families.

Barkly Drifters drummer Reggie O'Riley says being on Sand Tracks means a lot to the band because of where they came from.

"We learned from our elders - our grandmas and grandpas were the singers and musicians of the tribal people - and this tour is an opportunity to get out, share our music and share where we come from.

"Back in '85, it was an elder, my uncle, that got me started in music – he changed my life. And we're all really happy to be a part of this tour to help keep teaching kids about music, to get them to where they want to be in life, and help get them doing something they love. It's so important to teach these kids now, and music is something that everyone can connect with."

Country Arts WA Chef Executive Officer Paul MacPhail says "Sand Tracks has earned national acclaim over more than a decade of proud history, connecting talented musicians with remote Aboriginal communities to support the powerful and vibrant desert music scene.

“This year is no different, both bands are full of incredible musicians dedicated to creating great new sounds and really connecting with the communities they travel to. Communities on the 2019 tour have a lot to look forward to.”

Healthway CEO Susan Hunt PSM says this year’s Sand Tracks tour provides the perfect opportunity for people living in remote communities to come together to enjoy live cultural music performances.

“By being active and keeping engaged with others is a great way to support positive mental health, which is the basis of the Act-Belong-Commit campaign,” she says.

Sand Tracks kicks off on 8 September at Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs, through its partnership with MusicNT. The tour will then travel over three weeks to five remote Aboriginal communities across three states; Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, with the final performance in Kiwirrkurra – one of Australia’s most remote communities, more than 2000km drive from Perth.

More info can be found at <http://www.countryartswa.asn.au/sandtracks2019>

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

Country Arts WA

Established in 1994, Country Arts WA is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. www.countryartswa.asn.au

Sand Tracks

The Sand Tracks program coordinated by Country Arts WA profiles and develops Aboriginal artists, connects and engages remote audiences and builds community capacity through partnering and delivering workshops, performances and music. Sand Tracks teams a renowned Aboriginal headline act with a young Aboriginal band from central Australia as the support act. The two bands tour through Australia's remote central desert region delivering live performances alongside music and culture workshops.

This is the 11th year that the program will travel across state borders, touring from Alice Springs through the Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra Lands. More information is available on the Country Arts WA website: www.countryartswa.asn.au/sandtracks

MusicNT's Bush Bands relationship with Sand Tracks

MusicNT's Bush Bands Program brings together two of Central Australia's premier music industry events - Bush Bands Bash and Bush Bands Business (BBBiz). BBBiz is a skills and industry development camp for the bands selected to play at the annual Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs. The camp connects close to 50 Aboriginal musicians from central Australia with music industry mentors for three days of workshops, rehearsals and discussions.

Each year the headline artist on the Sand Tracks tour mentors the bands at BBBiz; providing invaluable support and advice about their musical experiences. All bands participating in the Bush Bands Program are then considered for touring as the support act on the Sand Tracks tour in the following year; creating a tangible connection between these strong Aboriginal music programs.

Sand Tracks 2019 Tour Information

- Alice Springs**
Sunday 8 September
Bush Bands Bash, Telegraph Station
Phone: 0404 623 252
Locally presented by Music NT
- Amata**
Thursday 12 September
Amata Basketball Court
Phone: 08 8954 9019
Locally presented by Amata Community Council

3. **Irrunytju (Wingellina)**
Sunday 15 September
Wingellina (Irrunytju) Community
Phone: 08 8956 7307
Locally presented by NG Media
4. **Mirlirrtjarra (Warburton)**
Thursday 19 September
Warburton Community
Phone: 08 8954 0125
Locally presented by Wilurarra Creative and the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
5. **Warakurna**
Sunday 22 September
Warakurna Community Hall
Phone: 08 8956 7366
Locally presented by Warakurna Council
6. **Kiwirrkurra**
Thursday 26 September
Kiwirrkurra Community
Phone: 08 8956 4975
Locally presented by Kiwirrkurra Council Aboriginal Corporation

Band Biographies

Mambali

Mambali, a young and exciting force in NT music, come from Numbulwar - a remote coastal community on the edge of the Gulf Of Carpentaria. They have been performing for the last few years at festivals around the NT and are soon to launch their debut album.

Mambali fuse their traditional cultural songs and rhythms with contemporary sounds and beats and create a pulsating performance that has wowed local audiences since 2008. Their traditional songs are about country, culture and the Dhumbul Dance (Devil Dance) but are performed with contemporary arrangements, edge and energy.

They sing mainly in their first language Nunggubuyu and like many Aboriginal bands Mambali strive to be a positive influence on the next generation. They strongly believe that music is a key to that positive influence and is a powerful means of engaging young people.

Mambali are also keen to share their songs and culture and introduce a wider audience to the richness of their life on the remote shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Barkly Drifters

The Barkly Drifters are a four piece country-rock band from the Barkly region in the Northern Territory. They are heavily influenced by the bands within their community and grew up surrounded by music, through their families.

Made up of the coolest names in the business, the band are: Darren King (Kaytetye language group) as the main songwriter of the band, lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, Marcus Finlay (Yanyuwa) on lead guitar, Waylon Ward (Wambaya) on bass and Reggie Riley (Wambaya) on drums and vocals.

The band emerged from the Winanjjikari Music Centre at Tennant Creek where they morphed from the Tableland Drifters and Barkly Boys lineups. They started jamming cover songs in 2001 and a few years later began writing their own original music. They call themselves a mix between Fitzroy Express and Tableland Drifters.

They have just finished recording their debut album – We Are One - that will be launched at the Desert Harmony Festival in Tennant Creek in August 2019. The band have played Alice Springs (Bush Bands Bash, twice), Daly Waters, Tennant Creek and Borroloola (Malandarri Festival).