

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Three brothers bring Karajarri sounds to Indian Ocean Territories

*The Australian Government and Regional Arts WA are delighted to bring the Family Shoveller Band to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) this March.*

Carrying its sound from the red desert of the Kimberley to the glistening shores of the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), the Family Shoveller Band is sure to wow local audiences.

Performing a unique blend of reggae, pop, rock and contemporary tunes, the Family Shoveller Band features three brothers: Francis Shoveller on drums, Billy-Jo Shoveller on guitar and lead vocals, and Jordan Wright on bass.

Originally from the remote community of Bidyadanga, south of Broome, the brothers were taught to play by their father, Frankie Shoveller, and now share songs in both Karajarri language and English, telling stories of their culture and life on the land, and passing their stories to the next generation. Their music has entertained plenty of fans around Western Australia, including performances at the Nannup Music Festival, Fairbridge and the State of the Art Festivals, and these laid-back rockers really know how to get the audience up and dancing.

The Family Shoveller Band tour forms part of Regional Arts WA's long-running presenting program, providing support and capacity-building initiatives for regional arts organisations to program high quality performing arts in their communities.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says it is important that the organisation's statewide presenting program could extend its reach to the (IOT).

"This program supports regional presenters like Arts and Culture Christmas Island and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands to enrich the creative lives of their communities with high quality performances, inspiring people from all walks of life to participate in the arts.

"The Family Shoveller Band is an incredibly talented group of First Nations musicians, who will bring a uniquely Western Australian sound to the islands."

The Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Territories Division, provides funding to the WA Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Regional Arts WA, Arts and Culture Christmas Island and the Shire of CKI to bring arts to the IOT.

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### Media Contact

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## SUPPORT MATERIAL

### Family Shoveller Band Tour Dates

**Friday 19 March**, 1pm

Christmas Island District High School (CIDHS)

Locally presented by Arts & Culture Christmas Island

**Sunday 21 March**, 7pm

Police Padang

Locally presented by Arts & Culture Christmas Island

**Friday 26 March**, 6pm

Scout Park

Locally presented by Shire of Cocos Keeling Islands

**Sunday 28 March**, 4pm

Home Island Foreshore

Locally presented by Shire of Cocos Keeling Islands

Show info: <https://regionalartswa.events/family-shoveller-band/>

### Biography

Hailing from the remote community of Bidyadanga, south of Broome, the members of the Family Shoveller Band were introduced to music at a young age and taught by their father Frankie Shoveller. The three brothers play a fusion of reggae, pop, rock and contemporary music, with Francis Shoveller on drums, Billy-Jo Shoveller on guitar and lead vocals, and Jordan Wright on bass. Singing in both language and English, their music tells stories about Karajarri culture and the Family Shoveller Band way of living.

Family Shoveller Band's debut, *Brother*, received widespread airplay across the Indigenous radio networks following its release in 2011. In 2016 the band recorded its second album, *Feel So Free*. With a wealth of touring and performance experience, including Nannup Music Festival, 2019's State of The Art–Celebrate WA, and plenty of sold-out regional shows, these fellas are sure to get the audience up and dancing.

### About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly 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. More at: [www.regionalartswa.org.au](http://www.regionalartswa.org.au)

### About the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Territories Division

The Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications administers and provides services to the communities of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. More information is available at:

<https://regional.gov.au/territories/>

