



For immediate release  
14 August 2007

## MEDIA RELEASE

**The 2007 Caring for Country Cultural Festival in Cardwell NQ is bursting with opportunities to relax, enjoy and connect with indigenous art. Non-stop stage performances featuring dance, bands, singing, storytelling and workshops, makes this a landmark cultural event taking place Saturday 13 October, 10am-10pm and Sunday 14 October, 10am-7pm.**

From the tent village of artists selling paintings, to the Black Screen film program, traditional knowledge workshops and main stage concerts, 2007's Caring For Country Festival is a not to be missed celebration of Indigenous culture.

The festival includes large performance troupes of dancers (some totalling over 60 performers), Aboriginal Rainforest Artists, a main stage program of dance music and storytelling, a non-stop back to back Film Festival, plus spear and boomerang throwing.

Internationally renowned seventies disco band **Boney M**, will make the journey to **Cardwell** to wow locals and visitors alike, while national acts including: **Emma Donovan**, **Ganga Giri** and **The Stiff Gins** will all feature in the program.

Indigenous acts **Banawurun** from Brisbane, **Pigram Brothers** from Broome, **Pad Boys** from Kuranda and hip hop act **Zennith** will bring the festival alive with contemporary song writing and spirit.

Well-known cultural ambassador **Sean Choolburra** is another hot talent to make an appearance.

As a celebrated MC, comedian, dancer, hip hop didge player and traditional workshop performer, Sean is a source of inspiration to Australian youth.

His performances have been widely praised and described as 'deadly, dynamic and, at times hypnotic.'

"Young people and their music are a big part of the Festival's spirit and identity," says Giringun Executive Officer Phil Rist.

"We're lucky to have attracted some big names on the Indigenous scene and to have plenty of local talent who want to be involved. Just from the region itself we have eight acts lined up, among them **High Tide**, the **Julbu Julbu Womens Group Dancers**, the **Djarragun college band and dancers**, **Coralie Cassady** and emerging act **Last Minit**," says Rist.

A fantastic program of seminars and workshops are also being held to engage and educate audiences in a relaxed festival atmosphere.

Visitors to Cardwell Community can learn how to throw a boomerang, and experience Jumbun weaving and shield painting, or escape to the Black Ink library to brush up on Aboriginal language. .../over

"This is an opportunity for anyone who has ever been interested in learning more about Australian indigenous culture to really submerge themselves in the rich cultural heritage and knowledge that exists in Cardwell."

"It's a lot of fun, it's interactive and spring is the most beautiful time to be camping on the land and enjoying the rich festival program," says Rist.

Girringun haven't forgotten food either. Don't miss this opportunity to try the marvels of delicious Indigenous fare from all over the Cape and Far North Queensland. From kangaroo stews, to crocodile, sop sop and bush fruit, festival fare will be sold in stalls over the course of the two day festival.

For those who love Aboriginal art, there is the Blanket Bark Project a traditional knowledge art project that will see artists from communities all over North Queensland coming to display and share their work under the roof of one tent.

The second National CARING FOR COUNTRY National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference (9-12 October) and FESTIVAL (13-14 October) is held in Cardwell North Queensland. Presented by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, the Conference points to the future and is one of the most relevant and important environmental and cultural events held in Australia this year

The Conference's program contains Panel Discussions, Case Studies and Group Expeditions to the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage rainforests, featuring many more of Australia's pre-eminent Indigenous and non-Indigenous speakers, scientists, anthropologists, land managers and traditional owners.

Conference themes include Natural Resource Management and Well Being, Sustainable Economic Development, Employment, Education and Training, Governance and Partnerships, Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

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CARING FOR COUNTRY      [www.caringforcountry.com.au](http://www.caringforcountry.com.au)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM      <http://www.caringforcountry.com.au/program-day1.php>

## **FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Non-stop stage performance featuring dance, bands, singing, storytelling – the very best of Indigenous performance!**

**Saturday 13 October, 10am-10pm and Sunday 14 October, 10am-7pm**

Learn from a traditional elder the skill of using a spear thrower and throwing a boomerang in a netted off safe area.

### **BONY M**

Boney M comprised of four West Indian singers and dancers reached unprecedented success with their spirited pop and disco music during the 1970's. Known to have sold 150 million records worldwide, their names is synonymous with their hit song The Rivers of Babylon.

### **BANAWURUN**

Based in Brisbane, Queensland, Banawurun (meaning 'running water') have not only entranced audiences, but have also received national and international praise for their dynamic live performances.

Their distinct, original combination of soul, funk and rock is of such a high standard that they won '2006 Band of the Year' at the Deadly Vibe Awards, held at the Sydney Opera House.

### **INDIGENOUS WORKSHOPS**

The Aboriginal Rainforest Workshop teaches Festival goers the ancient skill of Jumbun weaving or shield painting. Ever marveled at that Boomerang coming back? Now here's your turn to learn how to do it yourself. Learn from a traditional elder the skill of using a spear thrower and throwing a boomerang in a netted off safe area. See if you can spear the wooden kangaroo target!

### **BLACK INK LIBRARY**

An escape from the Festival energy with a good read at the Black Ink library - with the latest Indigenous books available in Australia.

### **LANGUAGE HUT**

There are over 20 traditional languages in the Giringun region alone! Language lessons give a taster of the many local languages and show the latest work being done in the recording of Aboriginal languages from around Australia.

### **CULTURAL FOOD FESTIVAL**

The marvels of Indigenous food from this region, the Cape and Far North Queensland are on offer: from kangaroo stews, crocodile to sop sop and local fruits and vegetables.



**Queensland  
Government**