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Kimberley

The Walkabout Boys: Gooniyandi Reggae Music Project

Funding: YCulture Regional

Amount Approved: \$3,000



The Gooniyandi Reggae Music Project (named after the local language) was an innovative collaboration between respected traditional story recorder, musician Melbourne hip-hop artist Monkey Marc (Marc Peckham) and the Yiyili Aboriginal Community of Louisa Downs station.

The members of emerging Indigenous contemporary rock band, The Walkabout Boys, learnt new skills using technology as a catalyst for developing a reggae song based on a traditional Indigenous story.

25 young people and elders spent several days in the bush to record the Bat and the Crocodile story. Led by Gooniyandi elder, Mervyn Street, The Walkabout Boys spent 2 days visiting dreaming sites and recording the story on voice recorder under the mentorship of Monkey Marc. The story was then worked into a reggae song.

Marc helped The Walkabout Boys create the song by first uploading Mervyn Street's words onto a computer and editing the content to form a cohesive and smooth telling of the story. The group then wrote lyrics based upon Mervyn's telling and recorded themselves singing the tune. A reggae soundtrack was created and integrated with the lyrics using Pro-Tools sound editing software on Apple Mac.

On the last night of the project, the community came to listen to the song and watch projected images of the two week workshop and were very proud of the achievements.

The Gooniyandi Music Project received funding and support from Yiyili Aboriginal Community, Country Arts WA, YCulture Regional through Healthway to promote the Drug Aware message, the Shire of Halls Creek, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, Kimberley Land Council, Australia Council's Audience and Marketing Development Unit and the Regional Arts Fund.

Above Left: Elder, Mervyn Street & Monkey Marc. **Above Right:** The Walkabout Boys with Monkey Marc. Photos: Bec Cockram.



Australian Government
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