

# **Country Arts WA**

## **Sand Tracks Menu**

### **2010**



Welcome to the Sand Tracks Menu.

Sand Tracks is Country Arts WA's remote Indigenous contemporary music touring program.

It aims to develop Aboriginal artists and tour them to Aboriginal communities in remote regions of Western Australia, South Australia and eventually the Northern Territory. It is funded by the state of Western Australian through the Department of Culture and the Arts and Lotterywest and the Australian government through the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and the Australia Council's Music Board. Country Arts SA is a partner in the project.

Sand Tracks is designed to build skills and experience in presenting performing arts shows in your community. Country Arts WA will help you do this.

But we need your help too. Please vote for the bands you'd like to see.

**Make sure you get your votes in by Friday 11 June 2010.**

Katie Harford, Manager – Performing Arts Touring  
Country Arts WA

Sand Tracks will tour a professional band and an emerging band from the central desert region to a community near you. The bands that are available to tour are listed on the following pages. Please vote for the bands you would most like to have perform by ticking the box on the voting forms.

Country Arts WA will coordinate the tour and cover the touring costs.

Voting does not commit you to anything or to having the bands perform. We will arrange that with interested groups only so please vote so we know which bands to tour!

The tour will take place in September 2010. Workshops will be included and we encourage you to coordinate local support acts to perform prior to the event.



Photo : Victor O'Connor

## **How to use the Sand Tracks Menu**

### Step one: Browse

Have a browse through the bands listed in the Sand Tracks Touring Menu.

### Step two: Talk

If you are voting on behalf of a group we recommend that you get your community involved in the voting process. Take the Sand Tracks Menu to your next committee meeting or start your own voting system at your school or art centre!

### Step three: Vote!

You can vote for more than one band but only vote for the bands you would most like to see perform. The bands voted most popular throughout the central desert region will win a place to tour in September 2010.

**Make sure you get your votes in by Friday 11 June 2010.**

# Which headline band do you want to see?

Check out what is available on pages 10 & 11, then cast your vote here!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation/Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How many people were involved in choosing the bands? \_\_\_\_\_

## Headline Bands Available



**B2M**



VOTE



**Manuel  
Dhurrkay**



VOTE



**NoKTuRNL**



VOTE



**Yabu Band**



VOTE

Please fax both voting pages to Country Arts WA, 08 9200 6201

Fax back to Country Arts WA

08 9200 6201

or scan and email to

[touring@countryartswa.asn.au](mailto:touring@countryartswa.asn.au)

# Which support band do you want to see?

Which group would you like to support the headline band?  
Check out the bands on pages 14, 15 & 16 and cast your vote!

## Support Bands Available

**Iwantja**  VOTE

**Katrina Connelly**  VOTE

**Stewart Gaykamangu**  VOTE  
(formerly Red Sand)

**Sunlight Band**  VOTE

**Thunderboys**  VOTE

Please fax both voting pages to Country Arts WA, 08 9200 6201

Fax back to Country Arts WA

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or scan and email to

[touring@countryartswa.asn.au](mailto:touring@countryartswa.asn.au)



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Sand Tracks Menu  
Headline Bands Available  
2010**



*"B2M have a unique and extremely valuable method of engaging Indigenous youth."*  
- Tim Wood, MiseEn Media

Tiwi Islands band B2M formed in late December 2004 in their home town of Nguiu. The band is made up of young Indigenous men who sing about the issues facing all young people such as drugs, alcohol and suicide.

Their music is an R 'n' B pop with a traditional twist to it. The lyrics in their songs come from their life experiences growing up in an Aboriginal community and seeing first hand the effects of drugs and alcohol on their own people. Educating the kids of the future through their music and encouraging people to make a change in their lives is what keeps this band going.

Darwin Festival 2010 saw the band take to the big stage and the audience was completely blown away by their fresh approach. In the band's short history, they have achieved what takes some bands years.

One of their first recordings "Mahlia" was featured by the ABC as part of a program on mental health.

**Workshops available:**

*School visits* – B2M are committed to creating positive experiences for Indigenous kids. School visits include talks about the importance of getting involved in music or football as a way of keeping focussed and about making positive choices in life.

*Workshops* – Participatory workshops where kids are encouraged to work with the band to develop and perform their own songs

## **NoKtuRNL**

Since bursting onto the music scene in 1999, courtesy of a national tour with Spiderbait, Alice Springs band NoKtuRNL have offered a fresh take on Indigenous contemporary performance. Their music morphs from moments of instrumental and vocal intensity to sparse textures full of space and colour. It is a perfect platform for the engaging stage presence, and extraordinarily rich and expressive voice, of lead singer Craig T.

NoKtuRNL are three times winners of the prestigious National Aboriginal Band of the Year. They have toured extensively through Australia, Germany and Brazil and have performed at a number of large festivals both in Australia and overseas. Festival highlights in Australia include the Big Day Out, Yabun, Yeperenye Dreaming, Homebake and the Dreaming. Overseas highlights include the Riddu Riddu International Indigenous People's Festival in Norway and the Schlossgraben Fest Darmstadt in Germany.

Their music has been used in a number of films and television series both in Australia and overseas.

NoKtuRNL have two albums out through Shock Records, the Rolling Stone 4 star reviewed Time Flies; and Unveiled. Unveiled features all their singles including the ARIA nominated Neva Mend.

**Workshops available:**

Workshops can focus on playing an instrument, writing songs, arranging songs, recording songs, performing songs and planning a career in music. NoKtuRNL can also talk about the business side of the music business including personal and presentation skills and dealing with the media.



Check out [www.nokturnl.com](http://www.nokturnl.com)

## Manuel Dhurrkay



Listen:  
[myspace.com/saltwatergapu](https://myspace.com/saltwatergapu)

Manuel is forging his own identity whilst maintaining his connection to Saltwater. His songs include a mix of popular Saltwater and newly written, yet-to-be-recorded songs plus well-known covers. Manuel is one of the most professional performers from the top-end. He has been the driving force behind Saltwater for 10 years and has developed a strong professional and artistic reputation. His solo show will ignite the audience as he shares many of the songs of his clan as well as his new material.

As a performer, Manuel is an inspiration to Indigenous people everywhere. His connection with an audience is instant and long-lasting.

### **Workshops available:**

Manuel and his band will share their knowledge and experience through jamming, chatting, song writing and singing workshops.

## The Yabu Band

Fighting over the same guitar from the age of five, multi-talented brothers, Delson and Boyd Stokes, known today as The Yabu Band, have created a powerful, unique desert rock sound. Originally from Kalgoorlie, the brothers draw their heritage, culture and inspiration from the western desert bordering the Goldfields town. Yabu means rock and gold in Wongatha, their traditional language.

The band's most recent album Gundulla - We Dance showcases the recognisably Aboriginal sound and unique song writing craft that identifies The Yabu Band. Delson, Boyd and drummer Jade Masters have merged their traditional dreamtime stories with memorable contemporary melodies to create one of Australia's finest Indigenous albums.

### **Workshops available:**

The Yabu Band will share their knowledge and experience through jamming, chatting, song writing and singing workshops.



*"Without a doubt it was one of the most inspirational and uplifting performances we have seen" - Director, Australia Day Council of WA*

Listen:  
[myspace.com/theyabuband](https://myspace.com/theyabuband)



**Country Arts WA**  
**Sand Tracks Menu**  
**Support Bands Available**  
**2010**





“Awesome” say critics on hearing the Iwantja Band.

Listen:  
[myspace.com/iwantjaband](http://myspace.com/iwantjaband)

Iwantja: Language -Yankunytjara,  
Location: Iwantja Community  
(Indulkana) on the Eastern end of the  
Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara  
(APY) Lands

If the Warumpi Band and Nokturnl were to join forces they would have become the Iwantja Band, an emerging force of raw Aboriginal rock that fuses elements of desert reggae, blues and heavy metal, featuring the most amazing interactive lead guitar work you are ever likely to experience.

From one of the most remote towns in the country, Indulkana in the Anangu - Pitjantjatjara -Yankunytjara lands of South Australia they have harnessed a power from the heart of the red centre and created a unique musical style that has crowds yelling for more at festivals around Australia.

## Stewart Gaykamangu (formerly Red Sand)

Stewart has music pulsing through his veins. He has been the front man for several bands and has written several hits. His father (Softsand Band) from Ramingining taught him keyboard and vocals from an early age. He is first cousin to Geoffrey 'Gurrumul' Yunupingu, and most of the Chooky Dancers.

He plays any instrument and is a virtuoso on keyboard. He has performed at The International Festival of the Dreaming with Gurrumul, at Woodford with both Iwantja (drums and vocals) and Yabu, has won the Iruntju (Wingelina) Battle of the Bands, as the leader, vocalist and keyboard player of Redsand.

He blew the crowd away with his two sets at Alice Springs Bush Bands Bash, one set as Redsand and another with Iwantja, adding vocal and keyboard support. Stewart has also performed

with Redsand as the highlight band at Blak Nite in 2009 in Adelaide, and also performed as soloist with Iwantja backing at Spirit Festival in Adelaide 2010.

Stewart's amazing voice and huge enthusiasm on stage has audience entranced and dancing along with him wherever he performs. He plays his own style of Reggae with exciting arrangements featuring brass and sweet vocal harmony.

Stewart now lives in Amata. His current band line up is Stewart on Vocals and Keys, Ishmael Burton on Drums, Glendon Williams on Bass, Liam Tunkin on Lead, James Windy on Rhythm and is often assisted by members of Iwantja Band.



## Katrina Connelly



*No photo provided*

Katrina lives in the extreme north west corner of SA in an aboriginal community called Kalka. She writes songs, sings and plays keyboard. Katrina is singing in The International Festival of the Dreaming in June 2010, with Iwantja backing her.

Her songs tell of life in a remote community, addressing road safety, families, children, relationships and community issues and gospel songs. Katrina is one of the few female performers in the Central Desert, where it is mostly a man's world of music. Katrina performs her gospel songs at Maningrida, Pukatja, Amata, Warburton, Blackstone, Wingellina, Jameson and Alice Springs.

## Sunlight Band

Sunlight Band started as a school band in Pipalyatjara Community, APY Lands, playing every afternoon after school, performing at Pipalyatjara football carnivals and Ngaanyatjara Festivals at Jamieson, Blackstone Warburton and across the eastern WA regions.

Sunlight Band also performed at the Nganampa Festival at Umuwa, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the APY Lands. They played for the UPK recordings for Healthy Lifestyle on the Communities.

Sunlight Band recorded a CD at Fish Shop Studios, Port Adelaide. Sunlight Band were the feature band at Alice Springs Lassiters Casino in 2007. The band plays many styles of music from reggae, blues and rock.

The style is a bit of a mix of Jimmy Cliff, UB40 and Bob Marley.

Lawrence Nelson (Lead guitar and drums) and Danny Fox (Bass and Rhythm) are the band's spokesmen. Elijah Pinta and Nanta Brown on keyboard and guitars. Chris Richards is the lead vocals along with Adrian Lewis who also plays lead guitar.

All members of the band are Pitjantjatjara speakers and live near the three way border of Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia in the Pitjantjatjara Lands. Ages range from Elijah who is about twenty to Chris who is about thirty.



*No photo provided*

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# Thunder Boys



Thunder Boys sing up a storm. Five young men from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands, who are the band the "Thunder Boys" have made their first album and they promise it won't be their last.

"Kungka Kutju" is the album's title. It refers to a young woman wandering around on her own at night with no man. The album has 15 tracks. Amos Frank, keyboards, Roy Jugadai, bass and vocals, Fabian Baker, rhythm guitar, David Morris, lead guitar and vocals, and Joseph Peters, drums are from Fregon, Nyapari and Kanpi communities and have been playing together for some time.

They describe their music as; *"it's about living in the Lands and on the issues of petrol sniffing, drug misuse and crying for a woman."*

*"We try through the music to make sure there is something everyone who listens can identify with,"* they told Aboriginal Way.

The group is dedicated to success, and is well on the way, having fans in the APY Lands and winning Battle of the Bands at a 2005 APY carnival and also playing at celebrations for the anniversary of the Uluru National Park handover.

## What happens now?

Once the bands have been selected to tour, local groups will be contacted to host the bands in a community near you.

A local group needs to be responsible for paying the performance fee of \$2500 and signing a contract to commit to having the bands perform. The community group must provide an appropriate venue.

For more information, please contact Country Arts WA.

Some of the other people who may contact you include members of the Sand Tracks Advisory Group, who have been helping us put this project together.

The Sand Tracks Advisory Group includes representatives from:

- West Australian Music Industry Association (WAMI)
- Abmusic
- Ngaanyatjarra Media
- Country Arts SA
- Carclew Youth Arts
- PY Media
- Artback NT
- RedHOT Arts
- Central Australia Aboriginal Music Association (CAAMA)
- Winanjikari Music Centre
- PAW Media
- Music NT

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