

MEDIA RELEASE

SHARING DREAMS IN THE MILLION-STAR HOTEL

Noongar Wonderland lights up Perry Lakes, 3-5 March

FREE

A Perth Festival Commission

Conceived by Boomerang and Spear in partnership with Perth Festival

Noongar Wonderland transforms **Perry Lakes** into a magical space where people are invited to reconnect and celebrate Noongar Boodjar.

The nature reserve, nestled less than 4km from the **Wardan** (ocean), is a wonderland in itself. This special place is where Noongar youth and elders united to learn, connect and be inspired to dream about the future together through song, culture, art and belonging.

This free event over the closing weekend of Perth Festival 2022 invites guests to gather at Perry Lakes for a healing dance and Welcome to Country as the sun sets.

Patrons are encouraged to make their way toward the centre of the park, discovering stories, songs and dance along the way. Eight set areas circle the central ceremonial ground where audiences are welcome to wander, listen to storytellers or participate in interactive activities.

Curated by Perth Festival Associate Artists **Kylie Bracknell** and **Ian Wilkes**, along with a team of Noongar artists, what starts as an evening of healing and reflection, finishes on a high with the energy of the sea and groundwater overflowing into a technicolour dance party.

“This was a special place to Noongar people to visit, a ‘million-dollar hotel’ to stay for a few nights while moving across Country,” says Noongar Wonderland co-curator Ian Wilkes.

“As the sun sets, see the space light up by the natural glow of eight fireplaces, then flooded by colourful LED lights, showcasing the staggering majesty of the trees and the stunning sculptures made by Sharyn Egan. Each sculpture depicts a different creature significant to this part of Noongar Boodjar”.

Set between the two lakes, engulfing audiences in a multisensory experience, this immersive light and sound installation was designed in collaboration with **Mark Howett** and **Sharyn Egan** and **Clint Bracknell**, and guided by senior Noongar artists and consultants **Roma Yibiyung Winmar** and **Barry McGuire**.

Multi-Greenroom and Helpmann Award winning Lighting Designer Mark Howett last collaborated with Perth Festival on the Helpmann-nominated Perth Festival season of ***Boorna Waanginy (Trees Speak)***.

In consultation with the Festival's Noongar Advisory Circle, Perth Festival continues to showcase and celebrate Aboriginal artists and stories.

WHAT: Noongar Wonderland

WHERE: Perry Lakes / Floreat

WHEN: 3 – 5 Mar, 7.30pm

HOW MUCH: FREE, Registrations required

Conceived by Boomerang and Spear in partnership with Perth Festival



Supported by Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Click [here](#) for media resources and images. For further information, interviews or images please contact:

Stephen Bevis

+61 8 6488 8618 / 0448 927 281

sbevis@perthfestival.com.au

Belinda Sherry

+61 8 6488 8582 / 0415 346 803

bsherry@perthfestival.com.au

Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

ABOUT PERTH FESTIVAL

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 70 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–24.