

Noongar Wonderland

Lights. Country. Action!

This land still vibrates with story and song. For centuries, Perry Lakes was a million-star hotel for locals and travellers to gather, share and celebrate. It is ready to host us again – for a special Festival closing weekend created by a team of Noongar artists and designed for everyone to join in.

Noongar Wonderland is a multisensory experience guided by stories of Country. Weave your way through an immersive light and sound installation between the two lakes. Sit with artists and handcraft something both age-old and new. Feel the pulse of song and movement as the energy of the sea and groundwater overflow into a technicolour dance party. This is Noongar-futurism for the old, the young, for everyone!

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



Artistic Credits

Curator: Kylie Bracknell [Kaarljilba Kaardn]

Co-Curator: Ian [Moopa] Wilkes

Cultural Advisor: Barry McGuire

Cultural Advisor: Roma 'Yibiyung' Winmar

Lighting Designer: Mark Howett

Designer: Sharyn Egan

Creative Leads (Mayakeniny Dance Group): Trevor Ryan, Rubeun Yorkshire

Composer (Mayakeniny Dance Group): Clint Bracknell

With thanks to the Perth Festival Noongar Advisory Circle and Australian Research Council

Kylie Bracknell – Biography

Kylie has been with the festival since 2020, providing advice and support across all First Nations work in the Perth Festival Program. Kylie also is a practicing artist exploring the integration of Noongar culture and storytelling throughout the Program.

Kylie is an accomplished actress, voice-over artist, television presenter, public speaker, consultant, writer, director and producer from the Noongar region – the south west of Western Australia. She has coordinated and managed a variety of theatre, film, television, and radio industry programs.

As an actress, Kylie has appeared in television programs such as *The Gods of Wheat Street* (ABC) and *Redfern Now* (ABC), films including *I Met a Girl*, *Ace of Spades* and *Stone Bros*, and theatre productions *Black is the New White*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and *The Sapphires*.

Kylie's directing credits include *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa* for Perth Festival and Boomerang and *Spear*, *Hecate* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in association with Bell Shakespeare, *Don't Ask What the Bird Look Like* at Queensland Theatre for Queensland Premier's Drama Award and *Windmill Baby* as 'Associate Artist' at Belvoir Street Theatre. She served as assistant director on *The Business* (Belvoir Street Theatre) and *Beautiful One Day* (Ilbijerri and Belvoir Street Theatre). She recently directed a series of videos for Perth Festival, two Noongar language versions of animated series *Little J & Big Cuz*, as well as the *Mayakeniny Noongar* language webisode series.

Passionate about language revival, Kylie integral in developing the aforementioned innovative works completely in Noongar language, including the reimagining of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* titled *Hecate*, two re-voiced episodes of the award-winning animation series *Little J & Big Cuz*, and most recently *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa*, the first feature film to be dubbed in an Australian language.

Ian (Moopa) Wilkes – Biography

Ian Wilkes is a noongar man with connection to the Wadjuk and Balladong people. He is a past graduate of Aboriginal theatre at WAAPA and now a theatre-maker, performer and director. Current credits include co-writer and lead performer in *Galup* and artistic associate for WAYTCO's *Beside*, both for Perth Festival 2021, and co-director of *York* for Black Swan Theatre. Also, in 2021, Ian won the Perth NAIDOC award for Artist of the Year.

He has directed several plays including Yirra Yaakin's *Boodjar Kaatijin*, *Hobo* and *Songbird* for the Blueroom Theatre and has helped devise and create many others. He has performed numerous roles including in Yirra Yaakin's *Hecate*, and *Honey Spot* at the Sydney Opera House. Ian is also a regular performer in the long running WA show *Binjareb Pinjarra*. Performances in dance include *Ochre's Kwongan* for Perth Festival and *CO3's The Line*. Amongst Ian's career he also teaches traditional and contemporary dance to the younger generation by combining his knowledge of culture, theatre and performance.

Barry McGuire – Biography

Barry is a Balladong, Wadjuk, Noongar who is highly regarded as a public speaker, facilitator and negotiator. Barry has worked as a consultant and cultural advisor for Local, State, and Federal Government. In addition to his role as Managing Director of *Redspear Safety* and Chairman to

Safespear Pty Ltd, he has previously served on the board of Reconciliation WA. He is currently a member of the cultural advisory board to the Chevron Corporation and he is a Director to the Spear Foundation a not for profit organisation providing cultural understanding and support to organisations working with the Aboriginal community in the metro areas. This allows him to exercise his passion for sharing cultural understanding and safety across all nations of Australia.

Roma 'Yibiyung' Winmar – Biography

Roma has worked significantly in Indigenous education and the arts where she is continuously working with promoting Noongar language and cultural activities and has translated many children's songs into Noongar. She has extensive language skills and is presently employed as a Noongar language teacher at Western Australia's Moorditj College, and as the Elder-in-Residence at Edith Cowan University. She is also currently on the Board of Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC), and is a member of the Wirlomin Language and Stories Inc. Cultural Elders Reference Group. Roma was awarded the Barry Hayward Outstanding Achievement Aboriginal Individual Award, 2005. She has delivered sessions at conferences on language such as the Connecting with Aboriginal Languages Conference in 2007, in Hawaii; the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention conference in New Zealand in 2016; and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention conference/World Indigenous Suicide Prevention conference in Perth in 2018.

Roma sat on the Department of Education's Curriculum Council in setting standards and educational expectations for Noongar language taught at secondary and TEE levels. Roma was the language and cultural consultant on the play Yibiyung written by her daughter Dallas Winmar. She has also worked as senior language editor for the Noongar Shakespeare Project. Roma, under the name of Yibiyung, has worked with the Carrolup School of artists as adults. Biographical cuttings on Yibiyung as an artist in her own right are housed in the National Library of Australia in Canberra as a contemporary Noongar artist. She has a passion for passing on family histories to the next generation through research and storytelling.

Mark Howett – Biography

Mark Howett, originally from Busselton Western Australia is proud to stand on Noongar Boodjar. In 1982 he was awarded a scholarship by the Department of Culture and the Arts to study Theatre Design, under the tutelage of Jennifer Tipton at the School of Drama, Yale University.

Mark is a multi-Greenroom and Helpmann Award-winner who has worked not only as a lighting designer but a video and set designer for international productions in theatre, film, dance and opera. Including numerous West End credits to his name. Winning the Helpmann Award for Cloudstreet, and Kura Tunga, The Greenroom Award for Roadkill, Love of Three Oranges and the Secret River.

He has also directed and conceived many works and was the artistic director for Ochre Contemporary Dance Co from 2016 to 2019. Mark is a founding member of Bangarra and the Farm.

Mark was the Coordinator of Lighting at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Edith Cowan University.

Sharyn Egan – Biography

Sharyn Egan is a painter, weaver and sculptor. As a member of the Stolen Generation who grew up in the New Norcia Mission School much of her artwork is a commentary on her life as a Nyoongar woman and the associated trauma, emotions and deep sense of loss and displacement experienced by Aboriginal people.

Never afraid of experimentation and exploration, she works in numerous media, including painting, sculpture, woven forms and site specific installations, often choosing materials, such as ochres, resins and grasses that connect to land, especially her home near the lake system in the southern suburbs of Perth. Her woven works include traditionally styled contemporary forms and baskets, as well as larger scale sculptural forms.

Sharyn began her art career at the age of 37 when she enrolled in a Diploma of Fine Arts at the Claremont School of Art in Perth. She completed this course in 1998 and continued her education at Curtin University, first completing the Associate Degree in Contemporary Aboriginal Art in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts (Arts) in 2001. She has also been awarded a Certificate VI in Training and Education and has worked as an art lecturer, curator and art facilitator in schools, community groups and health organisations.

In recent years Sharyn has been awarded several prestigious and prominent public art commissions, at the new Perth Stadium, on Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square and the Scarborough Beach Redevelopment. She is a frequent exhibitor and invited artist at Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi and Cottesloe.

Trevor Ryan – Biography

Perth based performing artist with a passion of behaving truthfully in an imaginary situation by drawing from my inner skills and abilities as an Aboriginal Nyungar/Yamatji man to create the many interesting and challenging characters that are presented before me. My passion for the performing arts has always been within my heart since playing one of the three wise men at our school assembly as a seven year old and that was where it all started that flicker and flame of passion from within.

Currently a student at Edith Cowan University in Mount Lawley, Trevor is working on doing a Master of Arts in which my thesis/exegesis is about 'revitalizing Noongar country through performance'. More specifically, asking the question of 'why do we as Noongar Aboriginal people only perform certain animal, plant and element dance's and not the others'.

Rubeun Yorkshire – Biography

Rubeun Yorkshire is a Noongar man who has been creating and performing as an actor, in various plays around Perth, graduating from WAAPA. He performed in West Australian Youth Theatre Company's award-winning FRINGE WORLD show, *Rest*, and played Banquo in *Hecate*, the Noongar adaptation of Macbeth. He is passionate about cultural practices, maintaining and developing songs and dances.

Clint Bracknell – Biography

Clint Bracknell is a Noongar musician from the south coast of Western Australia and Professor of

Linguistics at the University of Queensland. The Australian stated 'Bracknell's live guitar and vocal qualities are pure magic'. He has composed extensively for Australian theatre, winning Best Composition in the Performing Arts WA Awards (Hecate) and receiving a nomination in the Helpmann Awards in 2012. Bracknell features in the 2019 movie *H is For Happiness* and his music has been used in international media. He holds a PhD in Noongar song and recently co-translated and voice-acted in a Noongar language dub of Bruce Lee's 1972 film *Fist of Fury*. In various musical roles, Clint has contributed to Sydney Festival, Darwin Festival, Perth Festival, The Big Day Out, Laneway Festival, and Fremantle Biennale.