

THE PROJECT

Neil Murray – the writer of the iconic song “My Island Home” – a song that has travelled so far and widely – so much so – that it becomes the reason he is invited to the Torres Strait where he joins local musician Patrick Mau – ‘Mau Power’ to mentor 19 emerging Indigenous artists for a week of songwriting and recording. Mike Justice and Ben Hense complete the mentoring team to record the emerging artists on Thursday Island and produce the music that celebrates family, cultural life and connection to country and sea.

MENTORS



NEIL MURRAY

Neil Murray is one of Australia’s most respected and influential singer/songwriters and has enjoyed a solo career since 1989, releasing 12 albums. Before that he was a founding member of the pioneering group the Warumpi Band that formed in Papunya NT in 1980 and over 2 decades released three albums and toured nationally and internationally. In 1983 they released “ Jailanguru Pakarnu” (Out from Jail) - a co written by Neil and guitarist Sammy Butcher - which was the first commercially released single of a song sung entirely in an indigenous language. In 1995, Neil was awarded the APRA song of the year for Christine Anu’s version of “My Island Home”- although originally written for the Warumpi Band this song has been covered by many artists and for this project it provided the inspiration for our 19 emerging artists. Connect with Neil at www.neilmurray.com.au



MAU POWER

Mau Power is a lyrical storyteller from Thursday Island in the Torres Straits. For many years he has been guided by two cultures, Indigenous culture and Hip Hop culture. “The only way for me to tell the story of how these cultures entwine and connect is for me to tell my own story.” Mau Power has run workshops with organisations such as Unicef and AIME (plus many more), he has recently toured the country, played at many major National Festivals and recently blew his audience away with a powerful performance in London. Engage with Mau Power www.maupower.com



MIKE JUSTICE

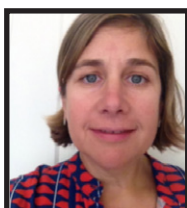
Mike Justice is a music producer, mentor, songwriter and manager. He currently works with both National and International awarding winning artist. Over the course of his 18-year professional music career he produced more than ten albums, facilitated workshops, worked in youth prisons, hosted a TV & radio show and had his music played on global TV shows and advertisements. He also delivered presentations on music and culture at Universities and Art Centers. Mike is currently running his own business called, Meridian Nights & managing artists such as Mau Power. Mike worked as a workshop facilitator and music producer on the My Island Home Project. His energy, passion and desire for personal growth and success are infectious and were a key to the success of the My Island Home Project. Contact Mike at www.meridiannights.com



BEN HENSE

Ben has been an audio engineer, producer and composer in the music industry for the past 19 years. 8 years ago he started up Beat Tank Productions, a recoding facility that specialises in producing recording artists and mixing audio postproduction for film and television. Ben has written music for many commercial television series and films including Wog Boy 2, Underbelly, Dance Academy, House Husbands, Bondi Vet and The Slap.

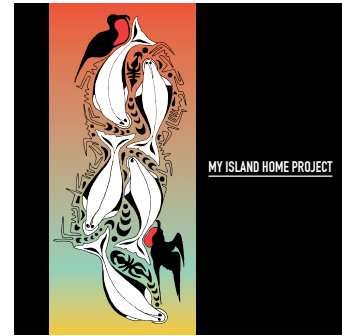
He has also produced and written many albums for various Australian artists at Beat Tank in styles ranging from country, rock, electronica, hip hop and acoustic. Find out more about his array of services at www.beattankproductions.com



SALLY LAWRENCE

Sally Lawrence is the Executive Producer and Project Manager of the My Island Home Project. B.C. (Before Children) she Managed the Indigenous Education portfolio for Education Queensland’s North Coast Region for 6 years. She currently inspires, connects, facilitates and creates projects with Indigenous Communities, Educators, Corporates and University students through her business - Black Cockatoo. Explore more of Sally’s work at www.sallylawrence.com.au

MY ISLAND HOME PROJECT



Thursday Island – Torres Strait – August 2015
Original artwork by Naseli Tamwoy

ARTISTS

**** All backing instruments played, programmed and produced by Ben Hense. Mixed at Beat Tank Studios Melbourne**



SYLVIA TABUA

Sylvia Tabua's family connections cross the Torres Strait through Yorke (Masig) Island and Yam (Iama) Island to PNG, Sylvia currently works at TSIMA the local radio station as a Senior Broadcaster, DJ and works tirelessly on promoting local artists from the Torres Strait, NPA and PNG. Her passion is music and involvement in this project has enabled her to develop her knowledge of the industry to better support local artists.



JOSEPH DESMOND DAVID

Joseph Desmond David is a singer, songwriter from the Central part of the Torres Strait and currently lives on Poruma (Coconut Island). Joseph's family is from Yam Island and his ancestry runs all the way back to Tudu, the English name for Warriors Island. "I wrote this song for my mum just to thank her for everything that she has done for me".



PATRICK LEVI

Hobson Patrick Levi from St Paul's Village on Moa Island is a singer, songwriter with over 30 years in the business. Inspiration for the song "Boom Bang" came from the local boys and taxi drivers using the Lingo and sign language for "there and back".



RITA KAITAP

Rita Kaitap, singer, songwriter of Kubin Community on Moa Island, originally from Badu Island with blood ties to Saibai, Mer, Faleasiu Village of Western Samoa and Rotumah. The song is to empower all my sisters to rise up and conquer or change your situation for the better, and believe we can do all things thru God's strength because he will light the way to go. If we let him, he will light up the way to go and he will get all the glory.



PATRICK BONNER

Originally from Palm Island, now living on Poruma (Coconut Island), Patrick Bonner is an emerging singer and songwriter. The words for this song were inspired by Bible scripture and is a prayer to God asking for help to understand, learn and deal with life's lessons, whether good or bad.



GEORGE MUSU

George Musu is an Argun/Wakaid Clansman from Badu Island. George is passionate about music, ongoing revival of our traditional songs through contemporary recordings. George hopes to inspire this generation to treasure and keep culture alive and identify as proud Torres Strait Islanders.

SONGS

DEAR MAMMA

LYRICS AND MUSIC BY
JOSEPH DESMOND DAVID

BOOM BANG

LYRICS AND MUSIC BY
PATRICK LEVI, STEVEN
SAILOR AND MIKE
JUSTICE.

WARRIOR WOMAN

LYRICS BY RITA KAITAP
AND ELISHA DORANTE,
FEAT GUITAR LONNIE
PEDRO

LET THERE BE LIGHT

WRITTEN BY PATRICK
BONNER FEAT. JACK
BANI, KATURA SAMSON
AND PELE SAVAGE

BINIW MAZA NGU

TRADITIONAL SONG
REMIXED BY GEORGE
MUSU FEAT. KATURA
SAMSON, PELE SAVAGE,
JACK BANI AND BOBBY
K + LEROY PEDRO AND
POWA SAVAGE

ARTISTS



MARITA SAGIGI, PATRICIA NAKATA, ELSIE SERIAT, CATH CEFAL

Marita Sagigi, Patricia Nakata, Elsie Seriat and Cath Cefai are the Island Gummas. Island Gummas was formed by Cath, Patty and Marita combining their vocals in the Catholic Church on Thursday Island. Elsie joined the Gummas at their first jam session and became the 4th member of the group. The song "A mothers love", was inspired by the sounds of local singing legends The Mills Sisters and was originally penned around Patty's mum Cessa Nakata, one of the original Mills Sisters



BOBBY K

Bobby K is based on Thursday Island and currently has three self produced albums out. His mix of Island Reggae, contemporary and traditional sounds showcase his songs, which are based on the challenges faced in the Torres Strait. Cycle carries a message to fathers, empowering them to come together calling for our leaders to stand in unity for our children and their future.



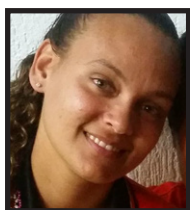
JARED NOAH

Jared Stanley Noah born and raised on Thursday Island with family originally from Mer, home of Koiki Mabo. Jared is a young emerging musician who aspires to be a full-time producer, sound engineer, beats maker and rapper. He loves all forms of music and always looks forward to spending time in the Lab (studio) creating new sounds. "Struggles is about my pain and struggles in life".



JOSSIE LOLA

Jossie Lola grew up listening to gospel music and was mostly influenced by Christine Anu, Carrie Underwood, Tori Kelly and Brandy. She started singing at the age of 10, as a soloist and in a group band. She is based out of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and has connections to Torres Strait. Her song "Heaven will show me" is her original work and tells of her search for identity and hope in finding her island blood lines in the Torres Strait.



ELISHA DORANTE

Elisha Dorante is a Pentecostal singer who has grown up her whole life on KIRRIRI (Hammond Island), a 10-minute boat ride from Thursday Island. Her ancestral connections are to the Torres Strait, the Philippines and non-Indigenous Australia. Elisha is developing her songwriting and singing skills and co-wrote elements of Warrior Woman with Rita Kaitap.



PETER LYONS

Peter Lyons (P-jay) is a singer songwriter from Thursday Island now based in Cairns. Long Ago was written about the Torres Strait and the history and culture of its people. "It's about identity, remembering the past and moving forward".

SONGS

A MOTHERS LOVE

LYRICS - PATTY NAKATA, MARITA SAGIGI, CATH CEFAL, ELSIE SERIAT, MUSIC BY CATH AND PATTY

CYCLE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BOBBY K

STRUGGLES

LYRICS BY JOEY TAPAU, MUSIC BY JARED NOAH FEAT. JOEY TAPAU

HEAVEN WILL SHOW ME

LYRICS JOSSIE LOLA, MUSIC NEIL MURRAY

LONG AGO

LYRICS BY PETER LYONS, MUSIC BY PETER LYONS FEATURING JARED NOAH ON LAMUT

ARTISTS



DAMIEN FUJII

Damien Fujii from Thursday Island is very passionate about music. His talent and real passion is making beats and creating raps and songs that match that sounds. 'Tell me Something' is a song about meeting a girl and learning more about her, It's all about the excitement as you get to know each other and grow together as a couple.



PELE SAVAGE

My name is Pele Savage - born on Thursday Island. I am in Year 11 at Tagai State College. I am aspiring to be a music teacher. The song I have composed is about having a loss in the family and going through that difficult stage of grieving. I dedicate this to my brother.



KATURA SAMSON

With maturity beyond her years, 14-year-old Katura Samson from Yam Island (Iama) is proving to be an amazing emerging artist as both a singer and songwriter. This song is about her mums' battle with depression and the strength she found to overcome the dark days. "She's not 'locked up' in her mind anymore, no looking back, just looking forward now".



JACK BANI

Jack Bani is from Thursday Island and is a direct descendent from the major tribe of Wagadagam, Mabayag Island. His totem is Koedal (Crocodile), his wind is Kuki (Northwest wind) and his constellation is the Baydham Zugubal (Shark constellation). His song is about his Grandfather, the Late Adhi Ephraim Bani. "I was only 2 years old when he passed away, his passing has had a big impact on my life and to this day, it has left me with a vivid memory. I wrote this song as though I have gone back in time and was there, as I am now, a teenager to witness his passing. As one of his favourite quotes - "I have taken a walk through the Corridors of Time"



MARIA PASSI

Maria Passi is originally from Mer and Darnley Island in the East of the Torres Strait. In 2013, Maria was sitting at home looking through the Haddon's Expedition and was fascinated by her great grandfather, Aet Pasi (Pasi Atha) and his amazing story. "They had to be strong, fierce warriors, If they hadn't survived, I would not be here today. I feel the spiritual connection I have with him and my ancestors, guiding my path and finding their strength in me. I feel them here with me guiding me on my journey".



NEIL MURRAY

Neil Murray was founding member of the Warumpi Band and is now one of Australia's most respected and influential singer songwriters. Neil is now living in Tjapwurrung country, Western Victoria a long way from the Saltwater people. "The song came to me after hearing singing in the local church on TI. Its the feeling I felt about finally being on TI, its beauty, its history and the memory of it being celebrated in the music of the Mills Sisters and Seaman Dan".

SONGS

TELL ME SOMETHING
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
DAMIEN FUJII

GOD'S HANDS
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
PELE SAVAGE

LOCKED UP
LYRICS BY KATURA
SAMSON MUSIC BY BEN
HENSE

SAILING AWAY
LYRICS BY JACK BANI
AND NEIL MURRAY,
MUSIC BY NEIL MURRAY

HAIL TO THE ROOTS
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
MARIA PASSI FEAT.
TRADITIONAL MERIAM
CHANT AND DAYNE NOAH
(RAP) AND BOBBY K

DREAMING OF THE OLD TI
WRITTEN BY NEIL
MURRAY - FEAT. ISLAND
GUMMAS