



2022 Malandarri Festival, Borroloola  
Friday 17 – Saturday 18 June

## It's time to head to Borroloola for this year's Malandarri Festival!

Formally known as DanceSite, this remote Community gathering of the 4 clan groups living in Borroloola, the Yanyuwa, Garrwa, Gurdanji and Mara people, has grown into a significant cultural event of the Roper Gulf Region.

The Malandarri Festival is carefully curated by festival director Marlene Timothy, a Yanyuwa/Garrwa woman who insures that the whole community is represented in the culturally diverse festival program; and that other regional community groups and schools are formally invited to attend and participate.

*“Cultural maintenance is very important”, says Marlene Timothy, “especially sharing with younger generations the knowledge of how and why it is important to keep it strong. Our traditional culture identifies who we are”, she says.*

Named after the traditional name for Borroloola, Malandarri, meaning fresh water spring, and the place *“where the first camp was located on the other side of the river before every one moved over town side”* according to Marlene, the festival now serves as a spring for cultural continuum.

Festival goers can expect a dynamic traditional dance program rich with ancestral storylines accompanied by songmen & women. The clan groups of Borroloola will be stirring up the sand and welcoming visiting groups including The Dhambul (Devil) dancers from Numbulwar.

As well as the traditional dance program, the Malandarri Festival is packed with entertainment including a line-up of local and regional bands like popular rock n' roll / reggae outfit, Sandridge Band. Darwin musician Dave Spry is travelling to Borroloola in advance of the festival for some music workshops leading into a performance. Also taking the stage will be legendary Gulf Country musician Barnabus Timothy.

Arrkula Yinbayarra | Together We Sing, is the much anticipated inaugural songwomen project. Born from a wish by the clan groups of Borroloola to conserve local languages through song, and with the guidance of singer songwriter and story teller Dr Shellie Morris, the Malandarri Festival audience can expect to be deeply moved by the power of song from the Tiwi Strong Woman's Choir, the Borroloola Cultural Song Group and Dr Shellie Morris joining forces on stage.



The Malandarri Festival is a family friendly, drug and alcohol free event. Entry each day is by gold coin donation and children under 16 are free. Bring a picnic blanket and enjoy the food available to purchase from the market stalls. Gates open at 5pm on Friday and 3pm on Saturday.

The Malandarri Festival is part of Artback NT's Indigenous Traditional Dance Program (TIDP), which was established to support the Northern Territory's artistic and cultural practices for inter-generational learning, through the relationships between Elders and young people, and for the continuation of cultural leadership.

Artback NT proudly works with artists from around the Northern Territory to develop and tour their work to local, national and international audiences.

The 2022 Malandarri Festival is supported by The Northern Territory Government, The Australia Council for the Arts, Festivals Australia Office for the Arts Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, The McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust, Roper River Gulf Regional Council, Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation and Mawurli and Wirriwangkuma Aboriginal Corporation (MAWA).

**For interviews and media enquiries please contact**

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Image by Malandarri Festival photographer Benjamin Warlangundu Bayliss