



Artback NT, and the community of Numbulwar present

Numburindi Festival 2023
21 – 23 September | Joshua Park, Numbulwar

The Numburindi Festival returns to the remote, coastal community of Numbulwar with a sensational program celebrating the language and culture of the region through art, music, and dance.



Photo by, Benjamin Warlungundu Bayliss

Home of the Red Flag Dancers, who have just had feature appearances at the NATSIAA and NIMA ceremonies, the remote Arnhem Land community of Numbulwar on the western coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria has been the site of the Artback NT supported Numburindi Festival since 2016.

Artback NT proudly works alongside the Festival Committee of Numbulwar Elders and community members including Cultural Advisor to the festival, Amanda Nglami, and world renowned Songman Ngulmiya Nundhirribala, who, despite his ongoing global commitments is returning as Creative Director, providing the festival program with rich cultural content celebrating language, art, and dance from the region.

“The much-anticipated three-day event is a special opportunity for a community as remote as Numbulwar to work toward performances that showcase the cultural history and traditions from the clan groups living in Numbulwar” says Shay Vigona Goudge, CEO at Artback NT. This includes the traditional dance program of the Ngalmi, Nundhirribala, Murrungun, Nunggarragalu and Mangurra Peoples.

As well as traditional dance performances, the final night of the festival provides the opportunity for local bands including the incredible Yilila, to perform alongside visiting groups such as the Sandridge Band and the Women’s Cultural Song Group from Borroloola, Saltwater Band from Elcho Island, and Mambali Band and Salt Lake Band from neighbouring Anindilyakwa, Groote Eylandt.

For interviews and media enquiries please contact Anisha Angelroth | Communications Manager | communications@artbacknt.com.au +61 (0) 8 8941 1444 | 0439 948 717 | www.artbacknt.com.au



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Also hailing from Anindilyakwa is award winning singer songwriter Emily Wurramara, for whom the performance has special connections to Numbulwar families.

Another highlight at this year's Numburindi Festival is the performance by Eastern Arrernte Band who are travelling all the way from the Central Desert community of Santa Teresa. Their *Reggae Dancer* tour is part of Artback NT's Performing Arts Program and will see the dynamic desert band perform at venues in Alice Springs, Ali Curung, Tennant Creek, Jabiru, Beswick, Darwin, and Numbulwar.

Amanda Nglami is a member of the festival committee and works as cultural advisor alongside Grant Ngulmiya Nundhirribala, and Stefan Carrillo, Artback NT's Remote Events Manager for several weeks leading up to the festival.

"Sharing our culture with visitors and family from other remote communities and passing on that traditional knowledge, is very important to the festival committee," Nglami says, adding; "we love this chance to celebrate our stories, language, dance and song."

Further highlights of the three-day event are a mural project the school children of Numbulwar are working on in collaboration with the local Art Centre, Numbulwar Numburindi Arts, and an additional festival stage. Festival goers can enjoy the chill out acoustic stage, which will be serving up woodfired Numburindi Pizzas, and staging intimate acoustic sets from performing artists.

The Numburindi Festival is part of Artback NT's Remote Events Program and supports 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 the Northern Territory to promote and tour their work to local, national, and international audiences. The 2023 Numburindi Festival is supported by Northern Territory Major Events, The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Roper Gulf Regional Council, Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, the Numbulwar Numburindi Art Centre, and the Numbulwar Corporation.

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