



Artback NT presents: **Eastern Arnernte Band** NT Regional Tour, *Reggae Dancer*  
Ali Curing | Tennant Creek | Gunbalanya | Jabiru | Darwin | Beswick | Numbulwar | Alice Springs

**Eastern Arnernte Band** are a young desert reggae band emerging from the community of Ltyentye Apurte/Santa Teresa, 80 km from Alice Springs.

Northern Territory Touring agency, Artback NT's Performing Arts Manager, Evan Saunders is "really excited to take Eastern Arnernte Band on this epic tour of communities and remote festivals of the Northern Territory in September".

Saunders is particularly passionate about heading 'out bush', to bring live acts to remote communities. "As the only touring agency of our kind in the NT, we know a tour like this comes with big logistical challenges, but the reward is huge. Communities are exposed to new and exciting artists, and from the artists' perspective, the opportunities to perform to crowds of people in hard-to-reach places, travel and play music every day, is an awesome opportunity for many musos."

The packed itinerary sees the band perform as part of Stone Country Festival in the West Arnhem community of Gunbalanya, and the remote coastal community event, the Numburindi Festival in Numbulwar, in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Made up of Wesley Oliver and Tyrone Hayes who are both on keys & vocals; Barney Conway on drums; Vivian Ryder on lead guitar; Brandon Hayes on rhythm guitar and Baxter Alice on bass, **Eastern Arnernte Band** have been playing together since high school. Anyone familiar with the unique desert reggae sound will know how fun it is. With deep vocals and great riffs combined with a classic double keyboard reggae vibe, Eastern Arnernte Band bring their own energy to it. "These guys are known to get people up and dancing", says Saunders.

The band will head out and up the highway in early September for their first gig in Ali Curung, followed by Tennant Creek, Gunbalanya, Darwin, Jabiru, Beswick and Numbulwar, where they join a stellar line up of performers such as Ngulmiya Nundhirribala of the Red Flag Dancers, Emily Wurraramara, and Salt Water Band from Elcho Island, among others. As much as the band is looking forward to spreading their sweet desert reggae sound across the bush, they are really looking forward to playing to a Darwin crowd on Tuesday 19 September at Bustard Town, a popular live-music venue in Darwin's CBD. "It's guaranteed to be a big night", says Evan Saunders, "so keen music fans might want to get their tickets in advance".

On Country, the band members (aged from 25-35) work as youth workers, assistant teachers, school bus drivers and night patrol men. By contributing their skills to their land and community, they are inspired to create their unique brand of music. Singing in both English and eastern Arnernte, their songs revolve around place and country with a strong sense of self and personal identity. Their lyrics tackle loneliness, incarceration, and issues pertaining to youth and their experiences as young people living on country.

For interviews and media enquiries please contact Anisha Angelroth | Communications Manager |  
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## Itinerary

Wednesday 13.9 | Ali Curung  
Thursday 14.9 | The Memo Club, Tennant Creek  
Saturday 16.9 | Stone Country Festival, Gunbalanya  
Sunday 17.9 | Marrawuddi Arts Centre, Jabiru  
Tuesday 19.9 | Bustard Town, Darwin  
Thursday 21.9 | Djilpin Arts Centre, Beswick  
Saturday 23.9 | Numburindi Festival, Numbulwar  
TBC | Gap View Hotel, Alice Springs

## Contact

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## About Artback NT

Artback NT develops and presents creative works from across the Northern Territory – to and from some of Australia's most remote locations. We work collaboratively with artists and communities to create and present high quality arts and cultural experiences not readily available to regional, remote and very remote communities who are often left off the touring map.

Our Performing Arts Development and Touring Program delivers dynamic theatre, music, and dance performances, as well as creative workshops to audiences around Australia. Working primarily with NT based artists, producers, and companies, Artback NT is passionate about sharing the strong and unique stories of the Northern Territory and providing a lens into life experienced in this part of the world.

**If you are an artist in the Northern Territory or wish to collaborate with NT creatives and have an idea, we want to hear from you. Our next round of EOIs opens in August 2023**

This tour has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, it's arts funding and advisory body.

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