

Theatre Royal, Jan Wositzky & Castlemaine Yes23 with the Djarra community proudly present



# A CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF THE YES! VOTE



THURS 14 SEPT 7PM THEATRE ROYAL

DJARRA COUNTRY • CASTLEMAINE

In 2023, the Australian people have an opportunity to vote YES to an eloquent request, contained in the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians be given a say, a Voice, in the Federal laws that specifically apply to them, and that their communities be recognised in the Australian Constitution as the first peoples of this land.

It's a simple, practical, moral question, for the good of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and for the good of the whole nation. And for 'whitefellas', it's a once in a generation test of our decency, generosity, dignity and grasp of our history.

Welcome to this celebration of local Indigenous peoples and their culture, and our commitment to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Enjoy!

## THE SHOW

<b>MCs</b>	Kelly Ann Blake & Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky
<b>Australian Soundscape &amp; Photographs</b>	Andrew Skeoch, Sarah Koschak of Listening Earth
<b>Welcome to Country</b>	Dja Dja Wurrung elders Kerri Douglas, Uncle Rick Nelson, Auntie Paulette Nelson
<b>Thank You for The Welcome</b>	Jan Wositzky with Stephanie Carson, Tara Flinn & Briony Philips
<b>Barry Gilson</b>	Wadawurrung singer-songwriter, poet & storyteller
<b>Cate Kennedy</b>	With a poem and fable written for this occasion
<b>Fay White</b>	Singing songs written with the children from Nalderun ('All together')
<b>Neil Murray</b>	Soul songs from across Australia, and Dja Dja Wurrung country


## INTERVAL

<b>The Story of the Rainbow and the Mine</b>	John Bradley & Neil Murray
<b>Kinja</b>	Didjeridu/yidaki & violin, two cultures into one
<b>Auntie Diana Travis</b>	Speaking about the 1967 referendum, and her grandfather Sir Pastor Doug Nicholls
<b>Shane Howard</b>	Singing us into the heart of ourselves
<b>Alex Miller</b>	A few words from a powerful writer
<b>Uluru Statement</b>	
<b>The Singalong</b>	
<b>Boroya (the act of singing)</b>	Barry Gilson
<b>Blackfella Whitefella</b>	Neil Murray
<b>From Little Things Big Things Grow</b>	Jan Wositzky, Briony Phillips, Stephanie Carson, Tara Flinn
<b>My Island Home</b>	Neil Murray
<b>Solid Rock, Sacred Ground</b>	Shane Howard

## CREW

**Stage Manager:** Bela Warmington, **Stage Sound:** Stefan Brown, **Wrangler:** Tim Ratcliffe, **Lights/AV:** Jim Austin, **Front of House Sound:** Mark Woods, **Video of John Bradley:** Clive Willman & Liz Eager, **Additional photos:** Courtesy of Neil Murray, Auntie Diana Travis, Tourism NT, Mervyn Bishop; **Show Film:** Scott Sanders, Robbie Noakes & Clive Willman **Show Photographer:** Stewart Carter - so watch out for that online soon. **Stage Décor:** Frances Cincotta & Trace Balla, **Food & refreshments:** Dimity Fifer & others, **Beer** provided by Love Shack. **General Support:** Susan Fricke, Vic Say, Kaye Swanton and the many more at Castlemaine Yes23

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone in the show, on and off the stage, and to **Tim Heath** and **Felicity Cripps** for giving us the **Theatre Royal** for the night. **Support** provided by **Humanists Victoria**, a sub fund of Australian Communities Foundation. Funds raised go to the  **Yes23** campaign.

# A CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF

# Yes



•UNCLE RICK & AUNTIE PAULETTE NELSON•KERRI DOUGLAS•BARRY GILSON•KELLY ANN BLAKE•AUNTIE DIANA TRAVIS•KINJA•JOHN BRADLEY•NEIL MURRAY•  
•ALEX MILLER•FAY WHITE•CATE KENNEDY•SHANE HOWARD•JAN WOSITZKY•ANDREW SKEOCH•SARAH KOSHACK•STEPHANIE CARSON•TARA FLINN•BRIONY PHILLIPS•

*A celebration and commitment to a fair and just Australia. YES!*

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Uncle Rick Nelson & Auntie Paulette Nelson:** Senior Dja Dja Wurrung leaders who live in Castlemaine. Many local occasions have been blessed by smoking ceremonies and Welcome to Country from the Nelson family.

**Kerri Douglas:** is a proud Dja Dja Wurrung and Bangerang artist, whose passion and love of her culture inspires her artworks, in various styles that reflect Nature and her Aboriginal heritage. In this concert, along with Uncle Rick Nelson and Auntie Paulette Nelson, Kerri will conduct a special Welcome to Country.

**Barry Gilson:** is a Wadawurrung man, singer-songwriter, award winning poet and storyteller. He brings back the past through stories, song and Dreamtime poems that etch a path towards a greater understanding of Wadawurrung and First Nations culture.

**Kelly Ann Blake:** is a proud Wadawurrung woman and lives with her three children on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. She is completing a Master's Degree in Archaeology at La Trobe University. Kelly hopes that her journey can be a spark of inspiration for other women.

**Auntie Diana Travis OAM:** is a Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba woman, and the granddaughter of the much loved and respected activist for Aboriginal Rights, Sir Pastor Doug Nicholls. As a 19yo, Auntie Di travelled with Doug Nicholls on the 1967 referendum campaign trail and was awarded her OAM for community work throughout her life and as an advocate for justice.

**Kinja:** means 'my home', and consists of **Ron Murray**, from the Wamba Wamba people around Swan Hill, and **Sarah James**, a city girl of Scottish ancestry. Their haunting music on didjeridu and violin blends the Indigenous and Celtic backgrounds, transcending cultural differences.

**Dr John Bradley:** has spent 43 years working with and for the Yanyuwa people of the south west Gulf of Carpentaria. This has involved documenting and speaking the Yanyuwa language and being taught the Kujika - songlines - by the old men and women.

**Neil Murray:** was a founder of the pioneering 1980s Warumpi Band, with the iconic anthems *My Island Home* and *Blackfella Whitefella*. Now a maverick, award-winning solo singer and songwriter, Neil is a deep, soulful journey into our culture, history and music heritage. His new album is *The Telling*.

**Alex Miller:** is the author of thirteen novels, and a twice winner of the Miles Franklin Award, for *The Ancestor Game* and *Journey to the Stone Country*. Alex came to Australia in 1954, aged sixteen, to work on Queensland gulf country cattle stations, where his lifelong friendships with Aboriginal people began.

**Fay White:** is a singer-songwriter with a lifetime of working within and for communities – leading choirs across Australia, writing and recording songs about the environment and land care, working in schools, and recently fulfilling a commission to put the poems of Michael Leung to music.

**Cate Kennedy:** is a writer of fiction, poetry & non-fiction whose work has been widely published & anthologised. She currently lives and works in Dja Dja Wurrung country and is working on a new poetry collection as she teaches workshops and mentors other writers.

**Shane Howard AM:** For over 40 years Shane has been a unique voice in our culture and one of Australia's most influential writers and singers. Songs from *Solid Rock*, *Sacred Ground* (Goanna Band) to *Let the Franklin Flow* have changed people's minds, and over a profound solo career many other songs have sung up a compassionate heart-map of Australia.

**Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky OAM:** is a storyteller and musician. From a Czech-Scots migrant family, Jan has immersed himself in Australian stories and song, including as a founder of *The Bushwackers Band*, and many years working with Yanyuwa, Garrwa and Wardaman people 'up north' on their stories.

**Sarah Koschak:** has spent the last 35 years as a landscape and nature photographer, travelling extensively throughout Australia and overseas. These days she is a potter and has a studio in Newstead.

**Andrew Skeoch:** is a naturalist, sound recordist, environmental thinker, and author of *'Deep Listening to Nature'*. He has published nature recordings from around the world, and this experience informs his public speaking events and writings.

**Stephanie Carson, Tara Flinn & Briony Phillips:** are singers who share a love of singing of harmonies. Their voices have come together as choir members, backing vocalists and band mates, in *Pubsing Castlemaine*, the *Macapella Singers*, directing *Castlemaine Idyll* and the band, *Friends of Wendy Cotton*. Catch them around town, both individually and together.

