

# APOLOGY

*heal our past, build our future together*



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## APOLOGY - HEAL OUR PAST, BUILD OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

9 DECEMBER 2013

**Embargoed 10 December 2013**

**A** concert at Melbourne's Sidney Myer Music Bowl to celebrate the anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Stolen Generations on 13 February 2014 will bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers together in a shared vision of unity for all Australians.

Some of Australia's best Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians will perform at the free concert hosted by the Healing Foundation, an organisation established on the first anniversary of the Apology to support members of the Stolen Generations and their families through healing programs across the country.

The much anticipated anniversary concert, Apology - Heal Our Past, Build Our Future Together, is being hosted by singer-songwriter, actor and comedian Eddie Perfect and Aboriginal actor and star of the Sapphires, Miranda Tapsell. For Helpmann Award winner, Eddie Perfect, the opportunity to co-host is one way to create a shared and positive vision between Australia's First Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.

"I'm incredibly proud to be involved in the Healing Foundation's Apology Concert. For me, the Apology constituted an important and symbolic step towards acknowledging Aboriginal identity, past wrongs and a commitment to working towards a unified future," he says.

"As with all symbolic ideas, what needs to continue is real action. We have such a long way to go in Australia in building bridges back to Indigenous communities, creating real outcomes that see better options for health, education and strengthening Indigenous culture."

The Apology Concert is a national event aimed at cultural exchange and healing. As a nation, Australia has progressed in acknowledging and healing the Stolen Generations but there is more to be done, and all Australians can work together to build the future.

"In an area which is so quickly politicised, which so readily creates discomfort and blame and recriminations, I'm proud to be a part of a process that enters into a spirit of healing, reconciliation and discovery with an open heart, an open mind and a sense of togetherness."

A stellar line up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians will perform at the Apology - Heal Our Past, Build Our Future Together concert including Christine Anu, Archie Roach, Frank Yamma, Jimblah, Thelma Plum, and Kutcha Edwards. They will join non-Indigenous performers including Tim Rogers from You Am I, Clare Bowditch, Hip Hop duo Horror Show, and Australian urban roots band Blue King Brown to bring Melbourne a night of unforgettable entertainment.

For Stolen Generations member and Human Rights Award winner Uncle Archie Roach it's important the nation comes together on the anniversary of the 2008 National Apology.

"What happened to the Stolen Generations can't be erased or taken back and the anniversary is there to remind people it shouldn't have happened, and we need to come together on that day to make sure it never happens again," Uncle Archie says.

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“What happened to us affected the whole country, black and white and I hear it from non-Indigenous people that they are truly sorry and regret the fact that children were taken away. Artists, actors, performers need to come together on the anniversary and be strong around what took place, and give a continued voice to it.”

He believes that the Apology began the healing for the Stolen Generations but there is still more to be done.

“If I apologise to someone I say, ‘I’ve hurt you and what can I do to ease the damage’. This might be the 6th anniversary of the Apology but there are still things that need to be done to heal past wrongs, and that is joint work, between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of this country,” he says.

“We need to start with the younger generations to make sure they grow up in a reconciled Australia. We can do what we can, but we are really planting the seeds for our children and our grandchildren. Music is a great medium and it impacts on people on different levels. It brings people together and that’s what the concert will do.”

The Anniversary Apology Concert is being launched at Melbourne’s Federation Square on 10 December 2013, with performances by Archie and hip hop rising sensation Jimblah.

**For more information, head to [www.healingfoundation.org.au](http://www.healingfoundation.org.au)**



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The Healing Foundation presents

## 2014 ANNIVERSARY APOLOGY CONCERT

Host and performer biographies

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## HOSTS



### **Miranda Tapsell**

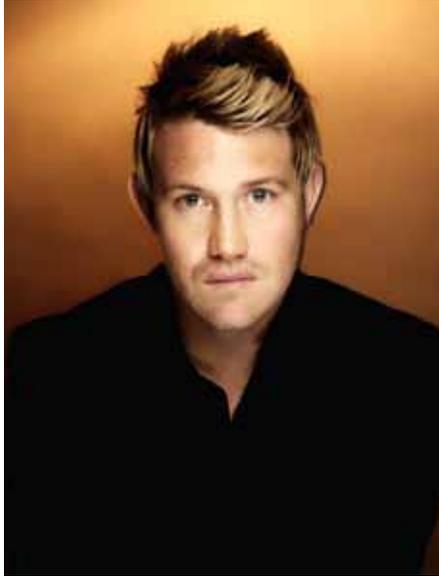
Darwin-born actor Miranda Tapsell caught the attention of the Australian public with her portrayal of Cynthia McCrae in the hit film *The Sapphires*, and more recently for her role as Teneka in the hit ABC TV drama *Redfern Now*.

She grew up in Kakadu National Park and began performing at the age of seven when she joined a tap-dancing group. As a young teenager, she was enrolled in summer short courses at NIDA and also performed with the Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Drama Group in Darwin.

At 16, the talented actor won the Bell Shakespeare Company regional performance scholarship and went on to study at NIDA, graduating in 2008.

Her stage credits are as impressive as her acting credits. Miranda performed the lead role in the Wesley Enoch directed *Yibiyung* for Belvoir St Theatre and Malthouse Theatre Co and has toured with Bell Shakespeare's *Actors at Work*, directed by Wayne Blair. She also appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Darwin Theatre Co and in *Mother's Tongue* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre.

Recently she played the character Elizabeth in the short film *Vote Yes*, directed by Nicholas Waterman. The film, set on the day the 1967 Referendum was held, will be screened in 2014.



## Eddie Perfect

Eddie Perfect is an Australian singer-songwriter, pianist, comedian, writer and actor. He is best known for his performance as Mick Holland in *Offspring*, and for creating and starring in *Shane Warne: The Musical*.

His television credits also include FOX8's *Ultimate School Musical*, the 2011 Logie Awards, *Kath & Kim*, *Stingers*, *Blue Heelers*, *MDA*, *Spicks and Specks*, and performing his own comedy on ABC TV's *Stand Up* and *The Sideshow*, *Good News Week* and the Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala.

Eddie has extensive theatre credits, too, and has written and toured several shows. He has composed music for Malthouse Theatre's productions of *The Big Con*, *Babes In The Wood* and Helen Noonan's *Voicing Emily*, as well as composing and performing music for the Helpmann, AWGIE and Inside Film Awards and for Network 10's *Offspring*.

He has also won several awards for his writing and composition, most notably two Helpmann Awards. *Shane Warne: The Musical* picked up the 2009 Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work. In January 2011, Eddie Perfect premiered his new solo show, *Misanthropology*, at the Sydney Festival, earning him the 2011 Helpmann Award for Best Cabaret Performer.

In 2012, Eddie performed the role of Luther Billis in the Opera Australia production of 'South Pacific', and in 2013 he premiered a new show with fellow musical comedians Tripod. In July, Eddie hosted the 2013 Helpmann Awards, and in October 2013, the Melbourne Theatre Company presented 'The Beast' written by Eddie Perfect.

## PERFORMERS

### Blue King Brown

Hailed by Santana as “The voice of the street and the band of the future!” ARIA-nominated Blue King Brown is Australia’s premier nine-piece, live urban roots crew.

Melbourne-based Blue King Brown was founded in 2004 by Natalie Pa’apa’a, and vocalist, guitarist and bassist Carlo Santone, both originally from Byron Bay, NSW.

Band members also include Salvador Persico on percussion, Steve Allingham on drums, Sam Cope with the keyboards, Cesar Rodrigues on guitar, Javier Fredes as percussionist, Lea Rumwaropen, Petra Rumwaropen, Ngaiire and Hailey Cramer on backing vocals.

Success came early for Blue King Brown. Their debut single, “Water” was quickly added to high rotation on Triple J and earned them an Australian Independent Record (AIR) Award for Best Performing Single in 2006.

Blue King Brown backed up their first EP release with a debut album, *Stand Up*, which was independently released in October 2006 through their own label, Roots Level Records. The album was nominated for the 2006 J Award and their song “Come and Check Your Head”, was #100 on the Triple J Hottest 100 in 2006.

Since then, Blue King Brown has made a name for themselves among die-hard urban roots fans and in 2010 released their album *Worldwise Part 1 North and South*.

Blue King Brown’s self-titled Canadian debut album was released on Indica Records in May 2011. It captured the eclectic international sound of the locations – Australia, Jamaica and America – in which it was recorded and mixed. Past festival performances include Vancouver Jazz, Montreal Jazz and Ottawa Blues.





## Christine Anu

Christine Anu is one of Australia's most renowned Indigenous performers and has had careers in singing, acting and dancing.

The Torres Strait Islander beauty moved to Sydney in the late 1980s where she began her studies as a dancer and went on to dance with Bangarra.

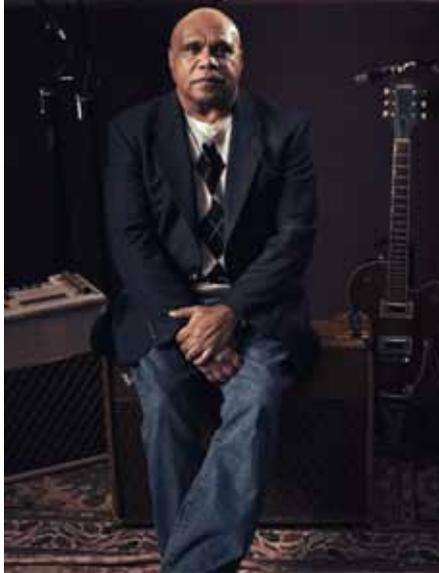
She started singing when she was a back-up vocalist for Neil Murray and the Rainmakers.

From there she released her first album, *Stylin' Up*, which went platinum and she began to be recognised for more than her dancing talent.

After winning an ARIA for best female recording artist and award for best female artist at the Deadly Sounds National Aboriginal and Islander Music Awards in 1996, Christine was asked by Baz Luhrmann to sing "Now Until the Break of Day" for the *Something for Everybody* album.

Her links with Baz Luhrmann earned her a role in the cast of *Moulin Rouge!* She was then invited to star in the Broadway production but instead chose to focus on her next album.

In terms of television and acting, Christine has appeared in the movies *Dating the Enemy*, *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Enter the Matrix*. She was a judge on *Popstars Live* and appeared on sci-fi television series *Outland*. In 2013, she performed in *South Pacific* and won acclaim for her portrayal of Bloody Mary.



## Archie Roach

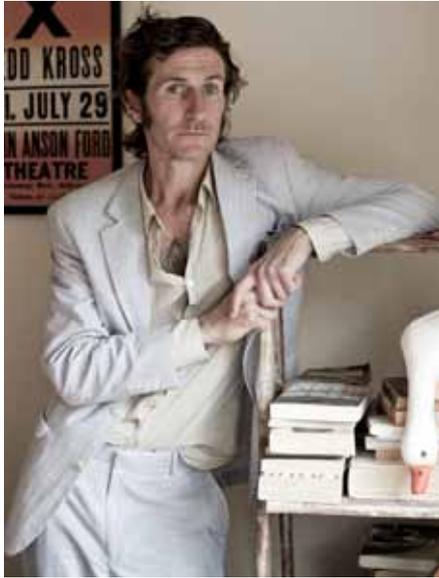
Archie Roach is a singer, songwriter and guitarist who over the years, has crafted his soulful music down to a fine art, becoming a powerful voice for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders and a widely respected artist around the nation.

Despite his tempestuous childhood as part of the Stolen Generation and bouts of homelessness and alcoholism, Archie found comfort in music - an art he mastered and then went on to produce 11 award-winning albums.

Archie's experiences as a member of the Stolen Generation prompted one of his greatest works to date, "Took the Children Away", an indictment of the treatment of Indigenous children of his generation for which Archie won a Human Rights Achievement Award - the first time this had been awarded for songwriting.

Many of Archie's works were created in collaboration with his musical soulmate and life partner, the late Ruby Hunter. Not only did the dynamic duo produce wonderful music but they also opened up their house to Aboriginal youth living on the street.

After the passing of Ruby, Archie suffered a stroke and survived lung cancer. These two ailments haven't slowed down the celebrated artist evidently reflected by his latest album "Into the Bloodstream", described as "a triumphant return for a man who lost everything then lost some more, but he has been bold enough to come back to the stage and the spotlight and tell us what he has learned".



## Tim Rogers

Tim Rogers is one of Australia's most beloved musical icons. As the frontman of You Am I, one of the quintessential Australian rock 'n' roll bands, Tim Rogers has released 10 studio albums, three of which debuted at number one when released - Hi Fi Way (1995), Hourly, Daily (1996) and You Am I's #4 Record (1998) - and received ARIA Awards and multiple platinum and gold status for commercial sales. The band has been released internationally, toured worldwide and headlined shows across North America and Europe.

Tim has also released critically acclaimed solo albums, and a number of collaborations with fellow musicians including Tex Perkins, The Temperance Union and The Bamboos.

Tim has also lent his talents to acting in the film *The Boy Castaways*, which debuted at the 2013 Adelaide Film Festival, as well as in television and theatre.

Australian Rules Football is one of his major passions, so he was in his element in 2012 when he became the face of the AFL Finals campaign appearing on print and TV commercials that recounted the best moments in AFL history.

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## Frank Yamma

Hailing from Central Australia in the Pitjantjatjara region, Frank Yamma can speak five languages but only sings in two - Pitjantjatjara and English.

The extraordinary songwriter and guitarist has a rich, deep voice and is probably best known for his brutally honest lyrics, which detail strong issues in the Indigenous community.

When Frank sings, you travel with him to the places and times that he sings about. As an amazingly captivating artist, his music will leave you in a thoughtful trance.

His latest CD *Countryman*, which is in his classic Indigenous Roots style, immediately drew attention and earned him national airplay. After being picked up by ABC Radio, *Countryman* won Album of the Week award on Triple R in 2010.

Frank has also earned himself a reputation in the UK after capturing the hearts of critics, such as Robin Denselow from *The Guardian*. He writes "...a gutsy and often pained set of ballads that veer between folk-pop and country. He saves many of his best melodies for the non-English-language songs, which include the epic and soulful "Pitjantjara" and "Docke River", which sounds like an intense country weepie." Closer to home, *Limelight* magazine has described Frank's music as "evocative and occasionally heart-wrenching".

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## Horrorshow

Horrorshow is an inner-west Sydney hip hop duo, comprising Solo (vocals) and Adit (producer) who are holding their own in the Australian hip hop scene.

Horrorshow burst onto the scene in 2008 with their debut album “The Grey Space” (released on Elefant Traks), resulting in an ARIA nomination and tours with The Herd, Muph & Plutonic, and Hermitude - all before the duo turned 21.

In 2009, they released *Inside Story*, cementing their reputation and selling out shows around the country.

Unsurprisingly, the duo has sold out every headline show they’ve ever done in Sydney and been a favourite on the festival scene. They have also spread their wings on an international scale, supporting Brother Ali and Urthboy in Germany as well as Hilltop Hoods in London.

In 2012, they supported Hilltop Hoods for a second time, performing to massive crowds across Europe and Australia. They rounded out the year by playing a special acoustic show at the world-famous Spiegeltent at Brisbane Festival and collaborating alongside label-mates for the acclaimed ‘Dr Seuss Meets Elefant Traks’ at Sydney’s Opera House.

Recently, Horrorshow released their new single “Unfair lottery”, a new album *King Amongst Many*, performed on triple J’s ‘Like a Version’, were nominated for another ARIA award, nominated for a J Award for album of the year and took their ‘King Amongst Many’ tour all over Australia.





## **Thelma Plum**

Gamilaroi woman Thelma Plum is a relative newcomer to the music scene but she is building a strong foundation as an artist with her folksy and fresh vibe showcased in her debut EP, Rosie. Named after her dog (and "best mate"), the EP features songs like "Around Here", "Father Said" and "Dollar", reportedly inspired by a relationship break-up.

She grew up in Moree and Brisbane, cites Paul Kelly and Marianne Faithfull as her musical influences and is proud of her Aboriginal, Australian and Brazilian heritage.

The Brisbane-based singer is still surprised by all the attention she is gaining but the majority of Australia can't be wrong.

Thelma was recently unearthed by Triple J, and the winner of the inaugural Triple J Unearthed/ National Indigenous Music Awards competition.

She has performed alongside artists such as The Medics, East Journey and Troy Cassar-Daley at festivals and various events around the country.

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## Jimblah

A proud member of the Larrakia, Yanyuwa, Bardi and Wardaman Nations, Jimblah aka James Albert was born in Broome, Western Australia, and grew up in Katherine in the Northern Territory. With influences ranging from Soul, RnB and Funk to Reggae, Jimblah is shaking up Australia's hip hop scene.

He started out freestyling and rapping at the age of 15. In 2007, he won the Hilltop Hoods Initiative, and has since performed at many festivals, including The Dreaming, Big Day Out and Good Vibrations.

Jimblah celebrates his Indigenous roots with a strength that shines through in his music. He is also strongly committed to the positive aspects of hip hop culture and its empowering ability to influence and change lives.

Originally leaning towards more commercial hip hop, Jimblah became involved in the local Adelaide hip hop scene, discovering more about hip hop as a way of life and as a cultural movement that he has increasingly become a part of.

Jimblah recently dropped his new album Phoenix, which has received rave reviews, cementing the fact that he is a powerful voice in the music scene.

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## Clare Bowditch

Clare Bowditch is a musician, writer, coach (creativity and creative-business), social commentator and sometimes actor who stars as 'Rosanna' on Channel 10's TV Show Offspring.

Clare has recorded and released seven albums: five under her own name, and two earlier releases with seven-piece Red Raku. Her last album "The Winter I Chose Happiness", was released by Island Records in September 2012.

Clare's been Rolling Stone's Woman of the Year, ARIA's Best Female Artist, Yen Young Woman of the Year (music), and EG Female Artist of the Year.

She's had top ten hits, toured with Gotye, Cat Power, and Leonard Cohen, interviewed a PM, written articles for Rolling Stone and Harpers Bazaar, played to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world, and had the rare honour of co-writing songs with some of Australia's best.

She is also the host of Qantas' in-flight radio show "The Spirit" on Radio Q.

Clare will headline the Woodford Folk Festival this summer.

