



**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
8 OCTOBER 2015**

## **Roots, reggae and hip hop stars join historic Yarrabah Brass Band for festival**

The Far North Queensland community of Yarrabah is set to triple its population on Saturday 14 November when the third annual *Yarrabah Band Festival* is staged, reuniting descendants of a historic Aboriginal brass band with an exciting line-up of artists.

It all started in 2013, when local Elders asked Queensland Music Festival (QMF) Artistic Director and trumpet maestro James Morrison to help revive the Yarrabah Brass Band, which was one of the few positive focal points for the community when it was an Anglican mission.

The event has grown to become the community's biggest night of music, art and food, attracting thousands of visitors and an impressive line-up of local and interstate musicians to Bishop Malcolm Park on the beautiful ocean front.

This year Melbourne urban roots outfit Blue King Brown, Indigenous singer-songwriter Shellie Morris and Torres Strait guitarist Chris Tamwoy will take to the stage alongside local stars Elverina Johnson and Djun Djun Jara.

Multi-instrumentalist James Morrison will make a special guest appearance again this year, jamming alongside artists and co-hosting with emcee and performer David Hudson.

Students from St Augustine's College, who took part in the 2014 *Yarrabah Band Festival*, will join the Yarrabah Brass Band on stage, while hundreds of Yarrabah students will get their first opportunity to learn from professionals when QMF spends a two week residency at the Yarrabah State School.

The QMF residency will see Shellie Morris, Mixed Blood Brothers, multi-instrumentalist Will Kepa and Yothu Yindi's Ben Hakalitz deliver workshops on singing and songwriting, stagecraft, recording skills and more, with around 25 kids getting the opportunity to perform on the night.

QMF has already committed to repeating the residency next year to continue to build musical skills in the community.

James Morrison, who finished his tenure as artistic director of Queensland Music Festival in September, said the *Yarrabah Band Festival* was one of his favourite events of the year.

"The history of the Brass Band, the rich musical talent on offer in Tropical North Queensland and the welcoming nature of the community make it such a special night," Mr Morrison said.

"This year visitors can expect a fantastic roots and reggae vibe alongside some big band action. Everyone should grab a chair or picnic blanket, come down and chill out by the sea."

*Yarrabah Band Festival* will commence at 5pm on Saturday 14 November and conclude at 8pm. Food and local artwork will be available for purchase. This is an alcohol free event, suitable for all ages and does not require bookings.

*Yarrabah Band Festival* is presented by Queensland Music Festival and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, and is proudly supported by Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Bryan Family Foundation, Seymour Whyte, Hutchinson Builders, APRA AMCOS, Gindaja Healing and Treatment Corporation and Bumma Bipperra Media 98.7FM.

**For more information visit [qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au)**

*Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives through unforgettable musical experiences.*

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. The Yarrabah Artist in Residence program is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Education and Training, in partnership with the Australian Government, through the Australia Council for the Arts.*

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