



QMF.ORG.AU

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

## Yarrabah in global media spotlight again as community prepares for Wiggle time

They made history by selling out Madison Square Garden 12 times over, hold the title of Australia's most successful music group of all time, and now The Wiggles are heading to Yarrabah State School in remote Far North Queensland to record their classic lullaby *Rock-A-Bye Your Bear* accompanied by local Elder Uncle Daniel Murgha, Indigenous singer/songwriter Elverina Johnson and Aboriginal language and culture teacher Nathan Schrieber performing in local Gunggandji language.

The recording will feature in their *Wiggle Wiggle Wiggle* TV series, to be broadcast internationally in the near future.

The pre-school supergroup will arrive in Yarrabah on Friday 4 November, one day before the community holds its annual *Yarrabah Band Festival*, which will also feature kids from the school where the recording will take place.

*Yarrabah Band Festival* was founded by Queensland Music Festival (QMF) in 2013 to revive the historic Yarrabah Brass Band, an Indigenous brass band, which was originally formed at the beginning of the 20th Century when the community was an Anglican mission. The fascinating history of Yarrabah has already made the small town of 2,500 people famous, with the *New York Times* running a story about the festival last year and international documentary filmmakers knocking at the door.

QMF always intended the festival to make its mark as an annual event that would provide a platform for local artists, attract outstanding musicians to come and perform, attract visitors into the community.

The endeavour has proven a huge success: *Yarrabah Band Festival* has grown year on year, welcoming thousands of visitors and many big names, including Busby Marou, Blue King Brown, and this year living legend Archie Roach and Triple J sweetheart Montaigne (Jessica Cerro).

Although The Wiggles won't be performing at *Yarrabah Band Festival*, they will be working with the community and kids on Friday while they are gearing up for Saturday's big concert on the beautiful Queensland coast.

The Wiggles' visit is in addition to QMF's new Yarrabah Artists-in-Residence Program, which saw Indigenous singer-songwriters Shellie Morris and Merindi Schreiber, and Cairns-based rapper Dizzy Doolan spend two weeks in June working with students from Yarrabah State School and Yarrabah High School to develop and practice material for this year's festival.

In the week leading up to the concert, Shellie Morris, Merindi Schreiber and Dizzy Doolan will be joined by Torres Strait Island's multi-instrumentalist and producer Will Kepa and Ben Hakalitz and singer-songwriter Deline Briscoe to continue working with primary and secondary school students to prepare them for several exciting performances in Saturday's concert.

This year's *Yarrabah Band Festival* will also host a local bands night for the first time on Friday 4 November - the same day The Wiggles are in town. The bands performing will range from emerging artists to established local acts, and one talented group will be selected by QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan to perform as a support act in Saturday's main event.

Katie Noonan invited The Wiggles to come along to Yarrabah, to enjoy the amazing musical talent that flourished in the community and film *Rock-A-Bye Your Bear* in English and the local Gunggandji language.

She said the visit and recording was extremely exciting for the Yarrabah community, and a wonderful expansion of the work QMF has been doing since it established *Yarrabah Band Festival* in 2013.

“We want to bring world class artists to the community to shine a spotlight on Yarrabah, to put it on the map, as well as to bring these brilliant musicians to work within the community through the festival and our artists-in-residence program, and educate and inspire young kids,” Ms Noonan said.

“Having someone like The Wiggles record one of their hit songs, in language, is an amazing opportunity to showcase QMF and Yarrabah to the national and international community.”

Yarrabah Band Festival 2016 commences at 5.30pm on Saturday 5 November, and is an all ages, alcohol-free event.

For details of the local band event on Friday 4 November visit [qmf.org.au](http://qmf.org.au).

Yarrabah Band Festival is presented by Queensland Music Festival, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Tourism and Events Queensland, and is proudly supported by Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Bryan Family Foundation, Seymour Whyte, Hutchinson Builders, Festivals Australia, Australia Council for the Arts, Frazer Family Foundation, Gindaja Healing and Treatment Corporation and Bumma Bippera Media 98.7FM.

-ENDS-

### **Yarrabah Band Festival**

**Date:** Saturday 5 November

**Venue:** Bishop Malcolm Park, Yarrabah (45-minute drive from Cairns)

**Tickets:** FREE EVENT

**N.B.** Please note The Wiggles are not performing at the festival

Follow us on:

Facebook: [/QldMusicFestival](https://www.facebook.com/QldMusicFestival)

Twitter: [@QMF](https://twitter.com/QMF)

Instagram: [@qldmusicfest](https://www.instagram.com/qldmusicfest)

YouTube: [youtube.com/qldmusicfest](https://www.youtube.com/qldmusicfest)

Hashtag: [#qldmusicfest](https://www.instagram.com/qldmusicfest)

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

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications and the Arts' Festivals Australia program and through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.*

*The Queensland Government is proud to support the Yarrabah Band Festival through Tourism and Events Queensland as part of the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar, showcasing Australia's best*

*live events in Australia's best destinations. The Yarrabah Artist in Residence program is supported by the Frazer Family Foundation.*

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Mitchell Van Homrigh

Agency North

0431 868 382

[mvanhomrigh@agencynorth.com.au](mailto:mvanhomrigh@agencynorth.com.au)

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



Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government