



AWMA AUSTRALIAN
WOMEN IN
MUSIC
AWARDS
2024

*First Nations
Women's Music Program*

**MAKE
WAY**

**DIZZY DOOLAN • LAYLA HAVANA • SUNNY LUWE
SUE RAY • SOLCHLD • AUNTY MAGGIE WALSH • YIRGJHILYA**

MCs – DIZZY DOOLAN & EMILY WURRAMARA

WELCOME TO COUNTRY – KIANA CHARLTON

THE OUTPOST, FORTITUDE MUSIC HALL, MEANJIN/BRISBANE

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 7PM



NACCHO
National Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation



This Program is made possible with support from Australian Regional & Remote Community Services

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this Country and pay our deep respect for their worldview, connection to Country and healing knowledge.

First Nations Women's Forum

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 9:30AM

QUEENSLAND MULTICULTURAL CENTRE, KANGAROO POINT

YARNING STRONG - ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE BLAK MATRIARCH ENERGY

Presented by Support Act through JB Hi-Fi's Helping Hands Program

Celebrating the resilience, wisdom, and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Australian music industry. Yarning about the lack of representation at music industry events and exploring ways of healing to protect ourselves, especially when it comes to mental health and channelling the resilience of our ancestors.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY: Kerry Charlton

FACILITATOR: Sue Ray (Gamilaraay woman)

PANELLISTS: Kristal West (Piadram, Manbarra and Palawa woman), SOLCHLD (Jamaican/Arrente), Yirgjhilya (Wuthathi and Mirning Songstress from the tropics of Gimuy, so-called Cairns or Gimuy/Cairns) and Aunty Maggie Walsh (Bwngcolman Kalkadoon Grandmother from Palm Island Community North QLD)

Sue Ray, is a proud Gamilaraay woman and multi-award-winning singer/songwriter and producer. Sue's sound is a seamless blend between country, blues and roots.

Sue holds a Diploma of Film & Television from Channel 9, Cert IV in Contemporary Music from Southbank Tafe, Certificate in Sound Engineering & Video Production from The School of Audio Engineering (SAE), and has completed a song writing course at the Songpreneurs Retreat in Nashville TN.

Since 2008, Sue has released three critically acclaimed albums, one EP and five singles. Over the past decade, Sue has been recognised with three QMusic awards and nominated for Female Artist of the year at the QMA's, Best Country Album at the AIR Independent music awards, best new talent at the Deadly Awards, and was a finalist in the Carol Lloyd Award and the Grant McLennan Fellowship.

Sue currently serves as the First Nations Music Officer at QMusic.



SUE RAY

KRISTAL WEST

Kristal West is a proud Piadram, Manbarra and Palawa woman with a passion for culture and identity. She is granddaughter to the legendary First Nations land rights activist, Dr. Eddie Mabo, who campaigned for ten years to eventually have the legal doctrine of terra nullius overturned. Her grandmother, Dr. Bonita Mabo AO, was a staunch black rights activist, recognized for her 'distinguished service to the Indigenous community and to human rights as an advocate for the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander peoples'. Kristal is heavily influenced by her grandparents and strives to capture the stories of her bloodlines through music.

After recent showcases at BIGSOUND and The Australian Women Music Awards, Kristal has just won the prestigious 2024 Dennis Mop Conlon Scholarship via QMUSIC, with the prize money going into the development of her forthcoming music project.



KRISTAL WEST

SOLCHLD

Enter the world of SOLCHLD - the Magan-djin based Jamaican, Arrernte artist whose raw, soulful vocals and effortless poetic writing style is as potent as her presence. Influenced by Neo-Soul, R&B, Hip-Hop and Reggae SOLCHLD creates music that is both deeply personal and universally relatable. Typified by a signature bouncy cadence and infectious melodies.

Coming from two strong cultural influences, SOLCHLD's Arrernte (traditional custodians of Mparntwe/ Alice Springs) and Jamaican roots bleed into the rich storytelling that is the center of her music. SOLCHLD brings more than just the music - she's a storyteller, a healer, and a visionary the world needs now.



SOLCHLD

YIRGJHILYA

Proud Wuthathi and Mirning Songstress based in Gimuy (so-called Cairns), her family and culture are her strength. Her story is her own, and her soothing, soulful voice becomes the instrument for raising the collective consciousness.

With the revitalization of the Mirning language with only six fluent speakers currently, Yirgjhilya uses her talent to carry on her culture and language for future generations in a modern way. After performing at shows such as St Kilda Festival, Yirramboi Festival, Laura Quinkan Dance Festival and the ABC's NAIDOC Special, Yirgjhilya has dedicated her time and energy to be an active role model for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people resulting in her being awarded Victorian Miss NAIDOC in 2019.



YIRGJHILYA

AUNTY MAGGIE WALSH

Aunty Maggie Walsh is a Bwgcoldman Kalkadoon Grandmother, Poet, Singer/ Songwriter, Comedian, Artist from Palm Island Community in North Queensland. She has performed at various events over the last 35 years from backyard family gatherings to Palm Island Spring festivals, NAIDOC, Woodford Folk Festival, The Gympie Music Muster and Brisbane Blacks Live 2022.

She is a published author and her debut book of poetry "Sunset", was published by Vagabond Press in 2016. Aunty Maggie also works in radio on The Murri Hour on Triple A Murri Country 98.9fm with co-host Tabitha Saunders.

Aunty Maggie is at a stage in her life where she can pursue other interests, including sustainable fashion design, and continuing to write and perform poetry, songs, and stand up comedy. Aunty Maggie has recently performed with The Inala Elders singing group at The QLD Museum as part of Black History Month.



AUNTY
MAGGIE WALSH

First Nations Women's Music Program

MAKE WAY

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 7PM
THE OUTPOST, FORTITUDE MUSIC HALL, MEANJIN

WELCOME TO COUNTRY – Kiana Charlton

MC's – Dizzy Doolan and Emily Wurramara

ARTISTS

Dizzy Doolan
Layla Havana
Sunny Luwe
Sue Ray
SOLCHLD
Aunty Maggie Walsh
Yirgjhilya



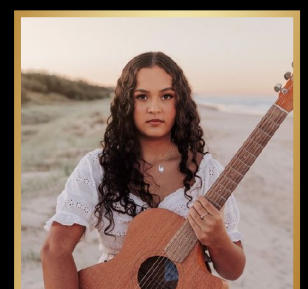
DIZZY DOOLAN



EMILY WURRAMARA



SUNNY LUWE



LAYLA HAVANA

Queensland Regional & Remote Delegates

Each year, AWMA provides eight First Nations, Multi-Cultural and non-indigenous women of varied age and cultural background (in different stages of music industry development, skill set and interest) a career-defining two days at AWMA.

The aim of the Queensland Regional and Remote Women's Music Program is to make the music industry more accessible for artists, musicians and music practitioners often disadvantaged by distance and gender. This year's program recipients are featured below.

Shennae Neal

Shennae's language name is Gilpul, meaning rainforest umbrella leaf. She is a Yindinji (Cairns/Yrarabah) and Djungan (Mount Mulligan) woman renowned for her empowering leadership within her community and beyond. As a dedicated motivator and advocate, she has made it her mission to inspire and uplift women, young people, and individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Through a combination of motivational speaking, mentorship, and community engagement, I believe I'm transforming lives and shaping a more equitable future. My passion for guiding others to tap into their potential is not only a testament to my own strength but also a catalyst for broader social change.

Shennae continues to break barriers, challenge stereotypes, and champion the importance of empowerment and self-discovery.

Kashana Wallace

Kashana Wallace is also known as Diwan. Kashana is a First Nations Kuku Yalanji; Kubirriwarra, Julaywarra creative artist, based in Gimuy (Cairns)

Art and Singing is a way Kashana stays connected to her culture and learns her language. Kashana is passionate about bringing forth messages that give inspiration to others to follow their dreams and to embrace who they are and feel comfortable in their own skin no matter their gender, ethnicity, skin colour, height or body weight.

Staying connected to my culture and my Kuku Yalanji country gives me strength and motivation, it is my identity. One of my favourite mottos 'Your interior determines your exterior.' 'Always Was Always Will Be' is one of my first songs recorded in a studio which will be released soon featuring Naurita Briscoe.

Madeleine Mccaw (Hello Jane)

Hello Jane is an Australian singer/songwriter who travels the country with her guitar and a unique blend of folk storytelling, pop melody, with a splash of country. As comfortable on large stages as in your great aunt's living room, she is well known for her heart-wrenching sweet vocals and sophisticated songwriting finesse.

She has performed alongside notable artists including 10cc, Melody Moko, Karl S Williams, and Camille Trail. Her most recent single 'Never Alone' reached new heights making its way into the Australian Hot 50 Country Charts, reaching over 60K streams and travelled across Queensland on her regional tour.

Amanda Heartsong

Amanda moved to the Baffle Creek area after being medically discharged from the Australian Air Force after a second tour of duty in Afghanistan rendered Amanda mentally incapacitated. Amanda needed a place that would allow peace and healing from the shame of being responsible for the deaths of 'the enemy' while in uniform.

Music helped Amanda to exorcise the demons and after releasing a debut single "The War Song" in April this year, Amanda felt as though those demons could start to be quieter. Amanda has travelled throughout QLD and NSW to play at festivals and last year began working with Veterans, writing songs and spending time reconnecting with that important life experience.

The War Song was the first song written and released by a former serving female member of the military who saw time in a war zone. There are so few songs about women in war, but we are there and it was really important to Amanda to finally have it acknowledged publicly.

Breanne Capell

Bre Capell is a direct descendant of the Gubbi Gubbi, Wakka Wakka nations of (SEQ) and Kullilli nation of (SWQ). Bre is a well-recognised music & arts industry professional with over 25 years' experience working in the Queensland arts sector and a specialist area focus on young and emerging & First Nations music industry development.

In Townsville, Bre worked with the Department of Corrections and Youth Justice at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre teaching art and coordinating centre events for 5 years. Bre also worked with Townsville City Council's Perc Tucker and Pinnacles Regional Galleries, the Queensland Aboriginal Islander Health Council (QAIHC), and the Townsville Aboriginal Islander Health Service (TAIHS) in Health Promotions roles and delivering the "Bwngcolman Youth Festival" in Palm Island which engaged many First Nations artists including Charmaine "Dizzy Doolan", Troy and Dean Brady, Naomi & Joel Wenitong, The Dub Marines and many others. Bre then worked with The Australian Institute for Marine Science, again working with young people and coordinating events.

Most recently, Bre returned to Cairns with her two boys and her musician partner of 25 years and now works with Cairns Regional Council at the TANKS ARTS CENTRE. Bre is responsible for Flame.Arts - a capacity building program for regional young and emerging creatives implementing projects and creative platforms for artists to develop the skills and knowledge required to navigate in the music industry and present to live audiences. Bre is also the Project Lead on the Cairns Music Industry Gathering for the second time around which will be held in November 2024.

Sophie Rose Raymond

Sophie Rose Raymond is the lead singer of Raining Roses, a rock/pop band from Rockhampton. She has been writing songs and performing on various stages since she was 11 years old. Originally a solo country/folk singer, Sophie learned her craft by competing in country music festivals in her early teens and performing at many festivals and events around Queensland.

She recorded an album called "Reawakened" with Bill Chambers in 2018 which was released at The Tamworth Country Music Festival. In 2020 Raining Roses was created and collaborating with her bandmates allowed her to explore a more pop/rock and blues sound. Currently the band is working on new original music which has evolved their style into a more alternative rock, post grunge and pop/punk vibe.

Rebecca Olyson

An accomplished guitarist, Bec captures hearts with stories, carefully crafted lyrics and warm vocals. A rural background has given Bec a deep love of nature and an instilled resilience and resourcefulness, qualities that have profoundly shaped her in life and music.

Bec is known as one half of sister duo Innocent Eve, playing many iconic Australian festivals, as well as international performances at Nashville's Americana Fest. Working with ARIA and Golden Guitar award-winning producer Matt Fell, many of Innocent Eve's songs have received charting recognition.

During the rise of Innocent Eve, Bec dealt with significant health challenges with humility and grace. Such adversity has gifted Bec a unique perspective on life, a strong spirituality, and a steady resolve to live fully, bravely, and passionately. This journey has inspired her to begin her first solo project, one full of life experience, reflecting her determination, sensitivity and passion. She continues to inspire others showing us that in all circumstances we can learn and grow and make a meaningful difference.

Jessie Mulan Neal

My name is Jessie, I grew up being called Mulan. I am a proud yidindi, djungun woman who grew up in her home town of Yarrabah.

Ever since I was small I have always been a performer. I performed all around Australia for cultural dancing, Participating in musical events and festivals was where my love for writing songs, rapping and performing has been developed.

My younger self then started creating music and performed at the Yarrabah music festival at the age of 11 and then again in 2023. During my spare time I love to go gym, church and socialise with friends, but most times I love to pull up random people from the street and rap in front of them. "



The heart & hand of Australian music

