

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2015

Desert beats in the Barkly

Hip-hop culture is well and truly alive in the Barkly and this weekend residents and visitors are in for a treat with a concert by Desert Sevenz and the E-Town crew.

Ampilatwatja band Desert Sevenz, which won a National Indigenous Music Award (NIMA) in November 2014, and the E-Town crew from Elliott will perform at the Civic Hall in Tennant Creek tomorrow night as part of National Youth Week.

Barkly Regional Council (BRC) President Barb Shaw, who will be hosting the event, said the concert was a perfect opportunity to showcase the talent of Barkly bands and celebrate National Youth Week.

“The aim of National Youth Week is to provide young people with the opportunity to express ideas, raise concerns and act on issues that matter to them as these talented musicians are doing,” she said. “It is an honour to showcase the music of these youngsters to support community participation and strengthen culture as a way to instil community development.”

The performance of the two home-grown Hip Hop bands also celebrates the culmination of three years work for the Barkly Desert Culture project, run by council.

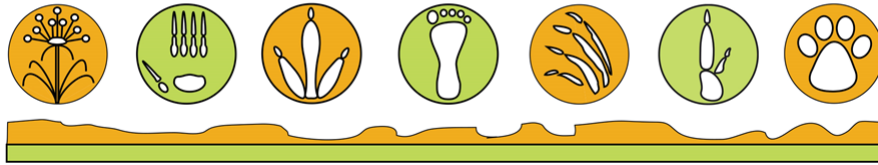
BRC’s Sport and Recreation Coordinator Sean Spencer said Barkly Desert Culture is an ongoing multimedia youth engagement strategy designed to proactively engage young Indigenous people and elders in communities across the Barkly region.

“The main idea of the project was to bridge the gap between elders and the younger generation,” said Sean, who launched the first Barkly Desert Culture DVD of films, songs and stories in Ali Curung and Elliott in October 2014.

“Youngsters engaged with elders to discuss issues around alcohol and substance abuse and domestic violence. They also asked what it was like for elders when they were young and looked at how communities can move forward in a positive and healthy manner.”

The results of these community talks were then expressed through song, hip hop music, storytelling, film, posters and animation, which bring the community together and celebrate local identity.

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“It also builds sustainability of multimedia skills, like learning to film, lay down a track, record and edit, encourages commercial success with CDs, DVDs and live performances and offers employment for local artists,” said Sean.

The concert, sponsored by National Youth Week and the NT Government, also features independent music producer Monkey Marc who has been rehearsing with Desert Sevenz and the E-Town crew for Saturday night’s concert at the Civic Centre from 7pm.

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