

MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTHERN TERRITORY PUNKS TO ROCK NATION'S CORE

Fresh off the stage from supporting US rockers, Queens of the Stone Age, Lonely Boys bring their six piece guitar-inspired, punk rock music to the central desert.

Lonely Boys is gearing up to headline the Sand Tracks tour through Australia's central desert, with red-hot up-and-comers Irrunytju Band in support. Lonely Boys have been playing in local and surrounding communities for over ten years, touring extensively across Arnhem Land and headlining at the 2015 Barunga Festival. This year, they will travel from their home community of Ngukurr in the Northern Territory's Arnhem Land to headline Sand Tracks.

With their decade of songwriting and performing experience, Lonely Boys will mentor talented young artists Irrunytju Band across the tour.

Irrunytju Band is a young desert reggae band from Wingellina (Irrunytju) community, located 10kms from the tri-state border. Their songs convey messages of country, people, social issues and tales from the road sung in Pitjantjatjara language. Irrunytju Band was a popular act in the 2016 Bush Bands Bash and has since performed gigs at Nannup Music Festival and Fremantle Arts Centre. Irrunytju Band will support Midnight Oil in Darwin after Sand Tracks.

Country Arts WA's Executive Director, Paul MacPhail, says, "The Sand Tracks tour continues to resonate with remote Indigenous communities, connecting successful musicians with remote communities and celebrating culture and creative expression. Sand Tracks, now in its eighth year, has gained national exposure. The 2017 bands have developed significant profiles and are certain to be a huge hit in the communities they are about to tour."

Sand Tracks is presented by Country Arts WA and Healthway promoting the Mentally Healthy WA campaign message, Act-Belong-Commit.

Healthway's Acting Executive Director, Maree De Lacey, said "Healthway is delighted to support the Sand Tracks tour for 2017. It demonstrates the Act-Belong-Commit message by providing an opportunity for people living in remote communities to share in and enjoy exciting live music performances. Through this year's tour, Healthway and Country Arts WA are working together to promote healthy living in remote communities throughout Western Australia."

Through its partnership with MusicNT, the Sand Tracks tour kicks off at the annual Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs.

MusicNT's Executive Director, Mark Smith, said "Regional touring is a vital development ground for musicians and MusicNT is proud to again partner with Sand Tracks to tour Bush Bands across the central desert region. Lonely Boys are a highly respected band with an established following and we can't wait to welcome them to Bush Bands. We are proud of this partnership with Country Arts WA and look forward to another year of amazing music."

Sand Tracks starts on 10 September at the Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs and will then travel to five remote Indigenous communities across three states; Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, with the final performance on the 23rd September in Kiwirrkurra.

More information about Act-Belong-Commit can be found at www.actbelongcommit.org.au

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

Country Arts WA

Country Arts WA is an independent not-for-profit organisation governed by our regional membership as the only arts body with a state-wide arts and cultural brief driven by the needs of all regional communities in Western Australia.

We build the creativity, connection and capacity of these regional communities to further develop WA's regional arts sector to be even more diverse, sustainable, relevant, and celebrated. Our services are aimed at coordinating and linking the regional arts sector in a state-wide network of upskilled and resourced artists and organisations sharing their collective and individual success to lead WA's narrative. More can be found here: www.countryartswa.asn.au

Sand Tracks

Sand Tracks program coordinated by Country Arts WA profiles and develops Indigenous artists, connects and engages remote audiences and builds community capacity through partnering and delivering workshops, performances and music. Sand Tracks teams a renowned Indigenous headline act with a young Indigenous band from central Australia as the support act. The two bands tour through Australia's remote central desert region delivering live performances alongside music and culture workshops.

Each year Country Arts WA creates a list of bands for communities to vote on. The top-voted band is then invited to headline the Sand Tracks tour. This is the eighth year that the program will travel across state borders, touring from Alice Springs through the Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra lands. More information is available on the Country Arts WA website: www.countryartswa.asn.au/our-services/touring/sand-tracks/

MusicNT's Bush Bands relationship with Sand Tracks

MusicNT's Bush Bands Program brings together two of Central Australia's premier music industry events - Bush Bands Bash and Bush Bands Business (BBBiz). BBBiz is a skills and industry development camp for the bands selected to play at the annual Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs. The camp connects close to 50 Indigenous musicians from central Australia with music industry mentors for three days of workshops, rehearsals and discussions.

Each year the headline artist on the Sand Tracks tour mentors the bands at BBBiz; providing invaluable support and advice about their musical experiences. All bands participating in the Bush Bands Program are then considered for touring as the support act on the Sand Tracks tour in the following year; creating a tangible connection between these strong Indigenous music programs.

Sand Tracks 2017 Tour Information

1. *Bush Bands Bash*, Telegraph Station, Alice Springs, NT – Sunday 10 September
2. Amata Basketball Court, SA –Thursday 14 September
3. Irrunytju (Wingellina) Community Hall, WA – Saturday 16 September
4. Mirlirrtjarra (Warburton) Oval, WA – Tuesday 19 September
5. Warakurna Community Hall, WA – Thursday 21 September
6. Kiwirrkurra Community Hall, WA – Saturday 23 September

Band Biographies

Lonley Boys

Lonley Boys are from the remote Arnhemland community of Ngukurr, 700km south east of Darwin. They are a six-piece guitar inspired punk rock band who have been playing in local and surrounding communities for more than 10 years.

In 2006 Lonely Boys won the Barunga Battle of the bands competition, this was no easy task given the quality of the other performers at that year's festival. They have since gone on to win many contests – with achievements including headlining the 2015 Barunga Festival and winning the Best Rock Song for NT Song of the Year 2016. The band's commitment to performing and their high level of performance skill has been an inspiration to other bands in the community.

They have performed extensively across Arnhemland to thousands of adoring fans at Indigenous community festivals and their dedication to music has allowed key band members Ambrose Daniels and Bert Rami to help disaffected younger members of the community. Both Ambrose and Bert have been responsible for steering a dysfunctional group of young boys towards music – and they have now formed their own band the Bad Tee Boys. 2016-17 has already been a big year for Lonely Boys, having released three singles, and they'll be making it even bigger with the Sand Tracks tour.

Irrunytju Band

Irrunytju Band (formerly known as Alunytjuru Band) are from Wingellina (Irrunytju) Community, located just 10kms from the tri-state border. They convey messages of country, people and loved ones, social issues and tales from the road through their Pitjantjatjara language lyrics. Already a household name throughout the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, Irrunytju Band last year undertook the release of their album, 'Titji Kutju' (One Kid). With the release of this album Irrunytju Band hope to take their message and music out to broader audiences and gain opportunities to showcase their incredible talents beyond their traditional lands.

Achievements to date include their film clip for the single 'Kalka' receiving airplay on NITV and ICTV, being awarded standout winners of NG Music Festival Band Competition 2010 and 2011 and performances at Bush Band Bash 2010, 2012 and 2016. They've already been on a tour this year, slaying shows for the Nannup Music Festival and Fremantle Arts Centre.