

## CAAMA Music

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MEDIA RELEASE - Alice Springs, 2 December 2013

## CAAMA Music - A Year of Staging Success

The Carols by Candlelight held at Anzac Oval in Alice Springs on Dec 8 will mark the culmination of a year of successful event staging for CAAMA Music. A department of the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, CAAMA Music this year launched an event staging initiative to provide hands-on industry training for those taking part in the Regional Music Development Program (RMDP), a collaboration also involving Charles Darwin University and the MacDonnell Shire. Over a period of three years sixteen 'Music Industry Rangers' (MIRs) from remote communities around Central Australia are learning the arts of event staging, running gigs, live sound mixing and music recording. These 'rangers' have gained invaluable industry experience by working on a variety of different events this year - from music concerts such as Wide Open Space, Obie Trice and the Pride Carnival; corporate affairs like the Tourism Central Australia Awards; regular events like the Night Markets in Todd Mall as well as the massive undertaking of Mbantua Festival, featuring artists such as Bernard Fanning and Jessica Mauboy.



CAAMA Music Trainee Sound Engineer, Tharron Mogridge, checks the sound levels with MIRs Donovan Mulladad and Kirra Voller before the Alice Springs NAIDOC Concert

CAAMA Music now has got the largest range of staging and event structures available for hire locally in Central Australia, with digital mixing consoles, modern lighting equipment and a state of the art line array sound system. Robert Smits, the coordinator of the Regional Music Development Program, has had many years of experience in the staging industry and says *"The response from Alice Springs has been really positive. They can see the training in progress, while being assured of high quality sound and staging"*.

Nigel Jamieson, co-artistic director of the Mbantua Festival and organiser of such large-scale events as the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games, says *"CAAMA did a really fantastic job at Mbantua Festival. The sound quality from the main concert state in the river bed at the Old Telegraph station was really exceptional...I was also enormously impressed by the crew, the positive quality of the team ... It is wonderful that Central Australia has such a great stage and sound system to support bands and events across the Territory."*

The skills that the Music Industry Rangers learn during this work can then be taken back and applied to their own communities, meaning that community events can be organised from within. Kieran Multa from Ikuntji explains *"We have wanted to learn about this stuff for a long time, we want to*

*know how to look after our own equipment, make money from sports carnivals and feel proud taking a bigger role in community events."*

This year Donovan Mulladad, a Music Industry Ranger from Ltyentye Apurte, organised the PA for his community's NAIDOC celebration. *"I have learned from CAAMA how to run the whole PA system, including setting it up and doing the mixing. This has made me and all the people from the community very proud."*

Events staged by CAAMA Music in 2013:

**Wide Open Space Festival**, Ross River Resort  
**Harmony Day**, Town Council Lawns Alice Springs  
**Pride Carnival**, Snow Kenna Park Alice Springs  
**Finke Desert Race and Finke Community Carnival**  
**Come Together Jamboree**, Ross River Resort  
**Australian Parties Obie Trice concert**, Alice Springs  
**Remote Indigenous Media Conference**, Ntaria  
**Nyirripi Sports Carnival**

**Aboriginal Congress Summit**, Ross River Resort  
**NAIDOC** week celebrations  
**intune Music Conference 2013**, Alice Springs  
**Bush Bands Bash**, Snow Kenna Park  
**Desert Festival**, Snow Kenna Park  
**Todd Mall re-opening**, Alice Springs  
**NAIDOC** community concert Santa Teresa  
**Night Markets**, Alice Springs  
**Christmas Carols**, Anzac Oval, Alice Springs  
**Battle of the Bands**, Finke  
**Mutitjulu Swimming Pool Celebration**



Setting up the stage for Bush Bands Bash at Snow Kenna Park, Alice Springs.



Donovan Mulladad at the controls, mixing the sound for the NAIDOC concert at Ltyentye Apurte.

For interview requests or more information please contact

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CAAMA MUSIC is an Alice Springs-based company, owned and operated by Indigenous Australians, that has been recording, supporting and promoting Aboriginal music for more than 30 years. It is part of the **Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association**, Australia's leading Aboriginal owned and controlled media organisation delivering culturally relevant content that helps preserve and maintain Indigenous culture.