

for immediate release

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Troy Cassar-Daley headlines at the Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture Keela Dreaming Cultural Festival 2011

The Kellerberrin Aboriginal Progress Association (KAPA) is pleased to announce that Country and Western star Troy Cassar-Daley will be the headline act for the 2011 Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture Keela Dreaming Cultural Festival. The bi-annual festival will be held on Saturday 12 March from 12pm at the Kellerberrin Sports Grounds.

The Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture Keela Dreaming Cultural Festival is a celebration of Aboriginal culture, showcasing the wide range of talents of Aboriginal people. Kellerberrin Elder Kathy Yarran will officially open the festival with a traditional Noongar 'Welcome to Country' and local Elder Hazel Winmar will raise the 'Keela Dreaming' flag.

Troy will be joined on stage by Noongar performers The Old Flames Band, Mixed Blood Band along with a local hip-hop showcase featuring MC Optamus (aka Scott Griffiths).

Another highlight of the festival will be a showcase presentation by Community Arts Network WA. CAN WA is hosting a series of workshops with schools and community groups in the Eastern Wheatbelt to pull together a performance that celebrates the Keela - or ant - Dreaming Festival entitled the CAN WA Noongar Voices ExtravagANTza. The ExtravagANTza will feature dreaming stories from local Elders and an ant corroboree performed by local children. Francis Italiano is directing the performance, alongside lantern maker Bec Massey.

Entry to the event is a \$5.00 donation at the gate, which will help support future projects organised by KAPA.

The Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture Keela Dreaming Cultural Festival is a joint initiative of the KAPA, the Noongar community, Community Arts Network WA and Shire of Kellerberrin. This event is proudly sponsored by Healthway, Lotterywest and the Department of Culture and the Arts.

About Community Arts Network WA

Community Arts Network Western Australia is the peak body for community arts and cultural development in WA. We facilitate community arts and culture funding, advocacy, youth arts and nationally recognised training programs for community wellbeing. Our two Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Development Units in Kellerberrin and Narrogin engage Aboriginal communities in self-determined arts and cultural activities to contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality and sustainability of these communities.

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See below for a biography for Troy Cassar-Daley. For media enquiries and further information on the launch, please contact:

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Troy Cassar-Daley - I Love This Place



WHEN Troy Cassar-Daley came up with the title for his new album, *I Love This Place*, he was thinking more about a state of mind than any place you can find on a map.

Much as he loves hanging out with his wife and kids, or throwing a line in on his farm an hour out of Brisbane, the much loved and respected Aussie country musician more wanted to share a blissful time and place in his life. Rather than having a midlife crisis and buying a Harley on hitting his milestone 40th birthday, Cassar-Daley realised he was exactly where he wanted to be.

“I really wanted people to see just how happy you could be in one particular stage of your life,” Cassar-Daley says. “More people should just pull up and smell the roses sometimes.”

After six studio albums, 14 Golden Guitars, three ARIAs, countless tours across our wide, brown land and two stints on the top-rating Channel 7 show *It Takes Two*, Cassar-Daley has good reason to be content and wants to share that positivity. Rather than dwelling on the tough times of life, a point reinforced on a recent trip to Whittlesea to play for some of those affected by the recent Victorian bushfires, Cassar-Daley wants to let people know there are good days ahead too.

Cassar-Daley, who also co-produced for the first time, had the luxury of taking a year off touring to craft his songs and with *I Love This Place*, he further establishes himself as a consummate story-teller and one of this country’s finest and most evocative singer-songwriters.

Good mate Keith Urban suggested he try writing with a drum machine to take him out of his comfort zone and while the honesty and rawness of the traditional country he listened to in his youth remains his strongest influence, the spectrum of sounds on the album incorporating rock, pop, blues and folk is testament to his versatility.

“You can teach an old dog new tricks,” says Cassar-Daley, laughing. “I have always been a purist when it came to writing with an acoustic guitar but this time I plugged the Telecaster into an amplifier and set the drum machine to a beat I enjoyed playing along to.”

I Love This Place features an array of fine co-writers including Don Walker, Colin Buchanan, the McClymonts and Brisbane-based singer songwriter Mark Sholtez, but songs are unmistakably Troy.

But it was the outstanding group of musicians that Troy and co-producer Rod McCormack assembled for the recording that give the album its warmth. Including Bill Risby on piano, Mitch Farmer on drums, Clayton Doley on Hammond organ, Jeff McCormack on bass, Rod McCormack on acoustic guitar, banjo, electric guitar, mandolin, lap steel & dobro, Camille Te Nahu on backing vocals rounds out the ensemble and naturally, Troy himself on electric & acoustic guitars & mandolin.

Whether revelling in his pride for his homeland and the marvels he has seen (Sing About This Country), celebrating the real-life larrikins and knockabout characters of the Aussie bush (bull riders Brian Young and the late Kenny Coleman on Chasing Rodeo, and outback boxing promoter Fred Brophy on the old-style country track of the same name) Cassar-Daley always sings from the heart and has the uncanny ability to transport listeners into songs, making them feel the heat of the sun, the texture of the earth, or the long miles of lonely roads.

And however far he has come, Cassar-Daley will never forget his roots. The Brisbane-based singer delves into his rich family history reminiscing about his upbringing in the north coast NSW town of Grafton on the haunting but hopeful This Town Is Me, then bringing to life in stunning the detail the days of toiling in the heat with his mother and aunt in Bean Pickin’ Blues.

His fellow Graftonians Walker and the McClymonts were happy to answer the call too. The former Cold Chisel veteran pitched in to co-write Down That Road, which was initially earmarked for a Slim Dusty trucking album, and the irrepressible, all-girl trio bring their considerable talents to the Dolly Parton-Porter Wagoner inspired, he-said, she-said Ain’t Gonna Change.

“They really understood where I was coming from with the male female thing,” Cassar-Daley says of the rising stars. “And it’s always great to acknowledge there is always going to be friction but let’s have some fun with it instead of it getting too serious.”

Happily married to singer and Brisbane radio presenter Laurel Edwards and father of two, it’s not surprising Cassar-Daley has love on his mind. There’s not only I Love You, a reminder that the L word is not a word to be taken lightly, but also the first single Big, Big Love, an impossibly catchy, “very simple” love song, inspired by his own family as well as the birth of Urban’s daughter with Nicole Kidman, Sunday Rose.

“Keith sent me a text message when his baby Sunday Rose was born with “Big Love Keith!! At the end of his text and I thought love doesn’t get much bigger than the love you have when you hold your child in your arms for the first time,” Cassar-Daley says. “That’s pretty amazing.”

For Bookings Contact: Costa@artistnetwork.com.au PH: 02 98196411

For further artist information visit: www.troycassardaley.com.au or [ww.myspace.com.au/cassardaley](http://www.myspace.com.au/cassardaley)

