



Media Release

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Contemporary Spin on Goomalling's History

The life stories of Noongar Elders in Goomalling has inspired the town's youth to record a hip hop music track in their honour.

The song, called "Turn Back Time" was created during a two day CAN workshop at the Goomalling Community Centre.

The track was produced with the guidance of hip hop artist Scott Griffiths, who is also known for his work as MC Optamus, with Perth hip hop group Downsyde.

CAN, in partnership with the Shire of Goomalling and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal and Ministry for the Arts, has been working with the Noongar community to record and preserve the Aboriginal history of the area.

As well as learning about the history of their town, the workshops gave young participants the chance to develop skills in beat-making, writing, rhyming, and performance.

CAN Project Manager Poppy van Oorde-Grainger said about twenty young people from the local community attended each hip hop workshop.

"They listened to recordings of senior members of their community and they then used a modern art of a storytelling, hip hop, to retell the history of their people and town." Said Ms van Oorde-Grainger.

The Goomalling Yarns Aboriginal History Project is a multi-faceted community arts program involving oral history recordings, photo sharing, family history research and arts workshops.

Twelve senior community members have played a pivotal role in preserving the town's Noongar history.

Locals shared their personal stories and memories with award winning oral historian Bill Bunbury. Former ABC sound engineer Jemma King has collated these stories into a poignant 20 minute radio documentary.

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CAN



About 80 Goomalling residents, most of them Noongar have played an integral role in the Goomalling Yarns project, participating in a variety of community arts workshops.

During the project, CAN helped the State Library Service of WA unearth a unique collection of photos capturing day to day life on the Goomalling reserve.

Called the Mavis Walley collection, the photographs were donated by Mavis's daughter, Goomalling resident, Dallas Philips. Dallas was bequeathed the collection of photo slides when her mother passed away. They sat in a tin box in her shed for decades, before a CAN arts worker recognised their historic value.

A CD and booklet, celebrating all the historical information gathered during the project will be launched in Goomalling on Saturday 8 August, 12 noon at the Goomalling Sports Pavilion.

About Community Arts Network (CAN)

CAN is an exciting and dynamic organisation working towards positive social change through community arts and cultural development practice.

Over the last thirty years CAN has been inspiring and mobilising WA communities who experience social disadvantage, to creatively express their unique stories through a diversity of art mediums.

ENDS

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