

Celebrating more than
65,000 years of Wiradjuri culture



Looking towards the stars

PROGRAM

6th April 2024 10am to 9.30pm

Wiradjuri Study Centre 48 McDonnell St, Condobolin NSW 2877

All welcome
Alcohol-free event

For more details
Skyfest.com.au
Ph: 02 6895 4664

Scan for
FREE tickets



PROUDLY HOSTED BY THE WIRADJURI CONDOBOLIN CORPORATION

Autographs



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3 - 4
PRE-FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS	5
FORMALITIES	6
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT	6 - 7
DANCE PERFORMANCES	7
WORKSHOPS	8 - 10
BOOMERANG THROWING	10
OUTBACK THEATRE	10
ART EXHIBITIONS	11
AFTERNOON & EVENING MUSIC	12 - 13
ASTRONOMY & SKY STORIES	13
SPECIAL THANKS	14
SKYFEST MAP	15
SKYFEST TIMETABLE	16
SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS	17

Welcome to Wiradjuri Skies



Gawaymbanha (welcome)

Standing out in the open air

Our feet firmly planted on the terra firma

Mother Earth is calling us back to country

Linking us all together

Condobolin Skyfest 6th April 2024

Ancestors watching and guiding us

As family, community, mob

Buwagarra mawang (come together)

Celebrating our culture

We keep the fire burning

Wrapped up in the warmth of language, song and dance

Where those sky stories are spoken for all to hear

Dreaming of the Seven Sisters and the Emu in the sky

This is where we belong.

Marion Wighton Packham, 9/2/2024

Buwagarra Mawang

(Come Together)

Welcome to SkyFest 2024 “Looking Towards the Skies”.

This is the 4th SkyFest festival to be held by the Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation at the Wiradjuri Study Centre.

This year we would like to emphasise that the festival is a time for the whole community to come together to celebrate as one. The Wiradjuri people of Condobolin would like to share our culture and astronomy with you.

We offer a family friendly atmosphere with something for everyone. Workshops for men, women and children. Enjoy our music and dance performances, especially the dances by our local youth.

There will be children’s entertainment and the opportunity to sample traditional bush tukka prepared on skewers with dipping sauces. Later into the night you can treat yourself to an astronomy session with a professional Astronomer who will be accompanied by an Indigenous sky storyteller.

Take our hand and walk with us while we celebrate 65,000+ years of culture and community.

Ally Coe
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation



Thursday & Friday, 4th & 5th of April

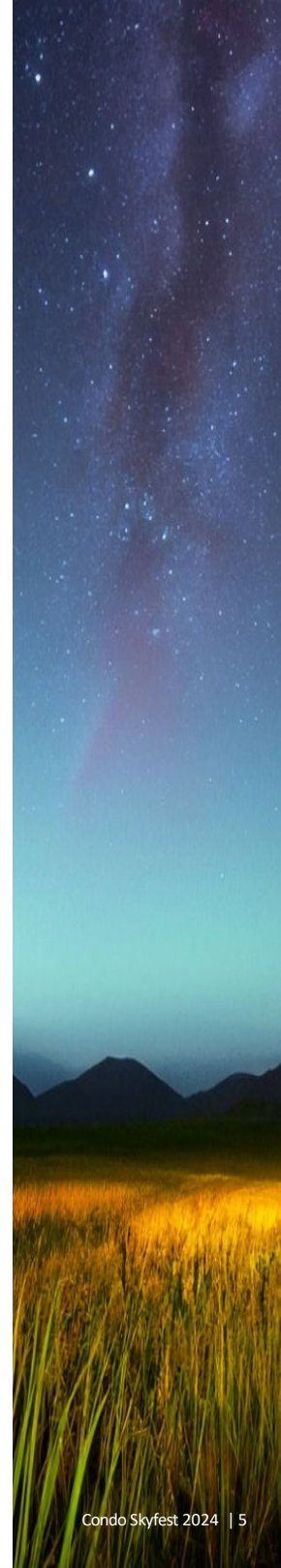
Women and girls Dance Workshops

Giralang Bundinya – Shooting Star: dance workshop for women and girls. All welcome to learn this dance for SkyFest.

Men and boys Dance Workshops

Join Dinawan Connection for a men and boys dance workshops. Bring your mates and dance at SkyFest.

All workshops held at the Wiradjuri Study Centre.
Please check our Facebook page for further details.



Saturday 6th of April

Formalities

10am – 11am

Welcome to Country

Uncle Dick Richards, respected Elder

Welcome to SkyFest

Ally Coe, Chairperson and CEO of the

Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation

Paul Phillips, Mayor of the Lachlan Shire

Aunty Bonnie Merritt, Lachlan Shire Citizen of the Year 2024

Children's Entertainment

11am – 12 noon

Uncle Johnny "Barley" Huckle

Award winning singer-song writer Uncle Johnny Huckle, aka 'Barley', returns to his hometown to open SkyFest's Children's Program with his famous Wombat Wobble, the irresistible dance-along song which, according to The Canberra Times has become "a staple of Australian childhoods". Uncle Johnny will return to the stage for our Night Program with the kind of music that gets adults dancing too.

11am – 1pm

Boomerang Painting Workshop

Express your creativity by painting your own Boomerang. Workshop supervision to be provided by Galari Pathways Officers, Nicky Read and Damon Goolagong. Children 10 and under must be in the company of a responsible adult.

11am - 1pm

Face Painting

Raquel Read will be face painting so you can look your best for the fun you will be having. You'll also be able to take some great photos. All children 10 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

12 noon – 1pm

Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga

Tahalianna is a proud Wiradjuri lady who has been performing on stages all around Australia since the age of 6. As a solo performing artist, Tahalianna was featured on The Voice Series 11, in 2022, where she stood proud to represent herself, her culture and her people.

Tahalianna has been blessed to meet, work and perform with some of the biggest names in the music industry like Yothu Yindi, Uncle Col Hardy, Senator BRIGGS, Barkaa, Dan Sultan, Jem Cassar-Daley, Thelma Plum, Dobby, Uncle's Roger and Buddy Knox, Christine Anu, Philly, Birdz, Yung Warriors, Prodikal 1, Stan Walker, Paulini Curuenavuli, Beat the Streets and YT Dingo just to name a few.

Tahalianna was also blessed to be asked to be the Master of Ceremony for the Enlighten Festival Up Late 2024, hosted by the National Gallery of Australia, with main event performs Senator BRIGGS, Dan Sultan, Jem Cassar-Daley, and Thelma Plum, and the Reconciliation Day Concert 2023, hosted by The Canberra Theatre, featuring Yothu Yindi as the main event - what an honour!

As a proud Wiradjuri performing artist, Tahalianna was also honoured to be the lead role in Warangesda the production in 2023, at the Warangesda Festival, back at the first Aboriginal Mission in NSW where her family lived.

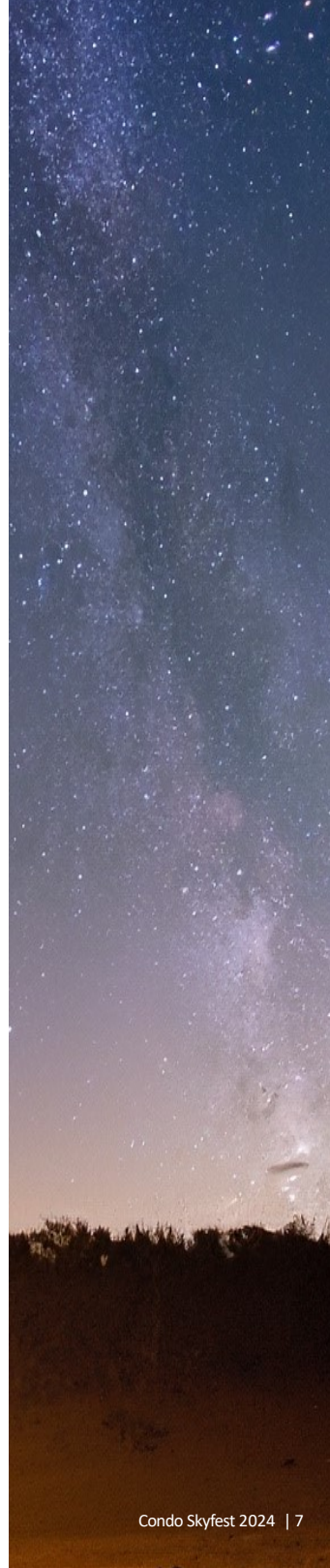
Tahalianna has worked hard to achieve her dreams, and believes in supporting others to believe in themselves, reach for the stars and aim high. As a young advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Tahalianna is always working through the lens of ensuring her Ancestors voices are respected and carried forward with her in everything she does.

Dance Performances

1pm – 2pm & 5pm – 6pm

Dinawan Connection & Wagana Dancers

Come witness a mix of contemporary and traditional Indigenous dances performed by local and visiting artists.



Workshops

Wiradjuri Language Workshop

1pm in the Wellness Room

Diane Riley-McNaboe

Diane Riley-McNaboe, a respected Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi Elder, has dedicated over 30 years to revitalizing Indigenous languages and culture in Dubbo and surrounding areas. Initially silenced by the fear instilled by her Uncle's removal from school for speaking their language, Diane transformed into a fearless advocate for language preservation.

As the inaugural coordinator of the North West Wiradjuri Language and Culture Nest, Diane oversees language programs in Dubbo, Wellington, Mudgee, and beyond, impacting over 2000 students. She ensures tutors align with community needs, supports schools with resources, and offers invaluable teaching strategies infused with Aboriginal perspectives.

Diane's influence extends to tertiary education, teaching Wiradjuri Language at Sydney University, TAFE, and Charles Sturt University. Her expertise in Aboriginal language education earned recognition as a TAFE Western Industry Expert and contributed to shaping Certificates and Assessments for Aboriginal Studies.

Throughout her career, Diane has garnered accolades for her exceptional contributions, including a nomination for the 'Champion of the Children Award' and recognition in cultural exhibitions like 'Dhaga Ngiiyanhi Ngan.girra' (Where We All Meet).

In advisory roles for the State Library and NSW Parliament, Diane shapes policies supporting Indigenous languages and cultures. Her collaborative artworks, displayed in Dubbo Base Hospital's foyer, celebrate traditional Wiradjuri artistry.

Currently teaching at Gilgandra High School, Diane's dedication extends beyond the classroom. She organizes weaving camps, language workshops, and supports dance groups, demonstrating unwavering commitment to cultural preservation and education. Diane Riley-McNaboe stands as a beacon of resilience, leaving an enduring legacy in Indigenous education and cultural revitalization.

Workshops cont.

Wiradjuri Language Workshop

3pm in the Wellness Room Spaces Limited Maximum 30 people

Aunty Iris Read

Aunty Iris Read teaches Wiradjuri Language at Yarradamarra Aboriginal , Dubbo TAFE. In this workshop she will share Dreamtime stories about stars given to her by her Elders and Talk about star totems, their stories and the animals which relate to them. You'll also create your birth month animal from tree nuts and, in the process learn Wiradjuri words.

Aunty Iris is an Elder from Narromine, NSW. Her mob comes from Gilgandra (where she was born), Dubbo, Peak Hill, Condobolin And Wellington. In her free time Aunty Iris enjoys arts and crafts, bushwalking, and teaching young family members about their ancestral language and culture so they can pass this knowledge on.

Wiradjuri Language Workshop

5pm in the Wellness Room

Marion Wighton Packham

Marion Wighton Packham is a proud Wiradjuri woman, born and raised in Condobolin New South Wales. She was fortunate to have had a photographic exhibition for Skyfest 2019, Wiradjuri Study Centre, Titled Strong Aboriginal Man based on a poem about the male influences in her life and the role men play within the community. Marion has had her writing published in the book Riverbank Dreaming - An Inland Skywriters Anthology, titled Riverbank Dreaming and had two short pieces published in David Reiter's Outer Space Inner Minds - Digital Anthology, titled The River Calls Us and Strength in a Sunset.

Marion is an educator and has many roles within the community but one thing she is passionate about is her role in the WCC Language Program. Teaching Wiradjuri language within her own community and assisting others on their language journey is a rewarding experience.

Marion uses a holistic approach to teaching language and will be hosting a language session at Skyfest 2024.

Workshops cont.

Clapstick and Emu Callers – Men & Boy's Workshop

2pm until supplies run out

Joe Coe

Come and learn how to prepare clap sticks and Emu callers with Joe. The hard work will be done for you. You just have to sand and decorate. Afterwards you will have your own handmade artefacts.

Weaving for Women & Girls

1pm – 5pm

Bev Coe and Mary Wighton

If you've ever wanted to learn how to weave this is the workshop for you. The opportunity to be taught by Master Fibre Artist, Bev Coe, and experienced weaver Mary Wighton. Take home your creations to cherish. Find them in The Sista Shed. Just ask one of our friendly staff for directions.

Boomerang Throwing Displays

11am, 1pm, & 3pm

Uncle Dick Richards

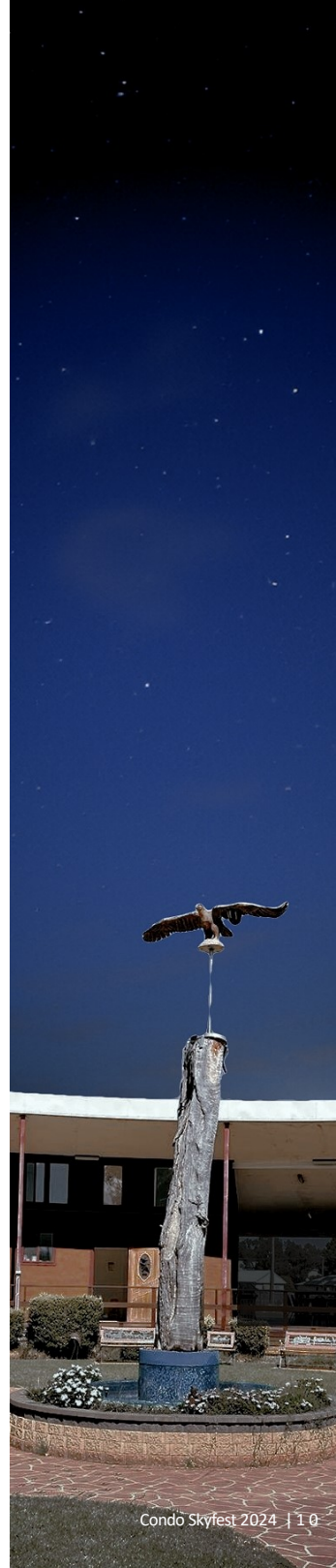
Join the Wiradjuri Study Centre's resident Elder, Uncle Dick Richards, for Boomerang throwing displays. Uncle Dick makes his own Boomerangs and is a self-taught thrower. These displays will depend on the weather so let's all hope for a fine day.

Outback Theatre For Young People

4pm

Condobolin High School Students

The Outback Theatre Company have joined forces with students from the Condobolin High School to put on a surprise theatrical production. This is one highlight you don't want to miss. The young people have put in a lot of creative work and effort. They would love to see you there to support them.



Art Exhibitions

The Sista Shed

The Sista Shed meets twice a week at the Wiradjuri Study Centre. The Sista's will be displaying both their painting and weaving work. The lead Creative is renowned Master Fibre Artist and painter Bev Coe. See what works the Sista's have been making and perhaps buy a piece for your own home.

The Galari Youth Program

The young people who attend the Galari Youth Hub and activities have been busy creating beautiful art that they can't wait to share with you. Come along and support their efforts and see just how stunning their paintings are.



Afternoon & Evening Music

2pm – 3pm

Tahalianna Soward

4pm – 5pm

Todd Williams

Todd Williams is a singer and songwriter from Wellington/Dubbo. Williams was the first Indigenous winner of the Stakemaker prize at Tamworth and won a Deadly in 2003 for Best Country Artist. His debut album, *Ten 'Till Midnight*, was recorded live and released in 2004. Todd is currently working and residing in Canberra but still loves to perform as a solo artist, and with the Bell River Band around NSW and surrounding areas.

6pm – 7pm

Uncle Johnny “Barley” Huckle

7pm – 8pm

Anthony Riley & Brian Ah-See

Riley & Ah-See is a Dynamic Indigenous Hip-Hop duo made of Anthony Riley and Brian Ah-See hailing from the lands of Wiradjuri Country in a rural town called Dubbo. Both artists are products of a long line of two well-known musical talented families.

What started off as multi-generational family connection soon became serious when the boys grew older and started to explore their culture and embark on their own individual musical journey which led to the establishment of the group that was destined to be. Both also share the occupation of revitalising their mother tongue by learning, sharing and teaching Wiradjuri Language & Culture to all generations and ethnic groups whilst incorporating the elements of music and art.



Afternoon & Evening Music cont.

Anthony Riley first picked up a guitar at the age of 8-9 guided by his older brother Peter Riley, the well known seasoned professional musician. At the age of 16 Anthony took a liking to hip hop and gained an interest in percussion. As Anthony was growing and discovering himself, he was also exploring different styles and genres of music. He found his feet in music and his passion for Hip Hop but always held onto elements of and respected all other genres.

Brian Ah-See was introduced to poetry by his sister Larissa at the age 6. He realised he had a knack for it as the words flowed from his mind with ease. Surrounded by music he picked up the basics from his Father Ricky of the Bell River Band (BRB). He stumbled upon hip-hop and decided it was his genre of choice. At the age of 12 he was gifted on a digital mixer and drum machine. Then he started to produce his own music. In the mid-late 90's he started to entertain. In the early 2000's he formed the group Knuckle Up. They found themselves in the #1 spot on Triple J unearthed hip-hop charts with a song called "Worldwide". Although his preferred genre is Hip-Hop/Rap he also incorporates aspects of all genres into his own style.

8pm – 9pm

Todd Williams

Astronomy and Sky Stories

Dark to 9.30pm

Donna the Astronomer from Coonabarabran will be joining us. Donna is the only astronomer featured in RM Williams 20 Great Outback Australians. If that's not enough, she has a PhD candidate in Astronomy and Astrophysics. Yep, chances are, Donna can answer any starry-eyed question you can dream up.

Ngemba/Wailwan man, Steve Taylor, will join Donna and tell sky stories as you view the stars. This spectacular duo is a show-stopper not to be missed.

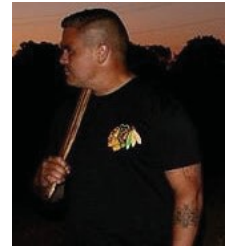




Jo Clancy and Wagana Dancers
Photo by Martin Vivian Pearce.



Aunty Diane Riley-McNaboe
Wiradjuri language teacher



Steve Taylor
Dinawan's Connection.



Aunty Iris Read
Wiradjuri language teacher



Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga
Solo performing Artist



Todd Williams
Singer, Songwriter & Musician



Marion Wighton Packham
Wiradjuri Language Teacher



Uncle Dick Richards
Boomerang Thrower & Maker



Uncle Johnny 'Barley' Huckle
Singer, Songwriter & Musician



Anthony Riley & Brian Ah-See

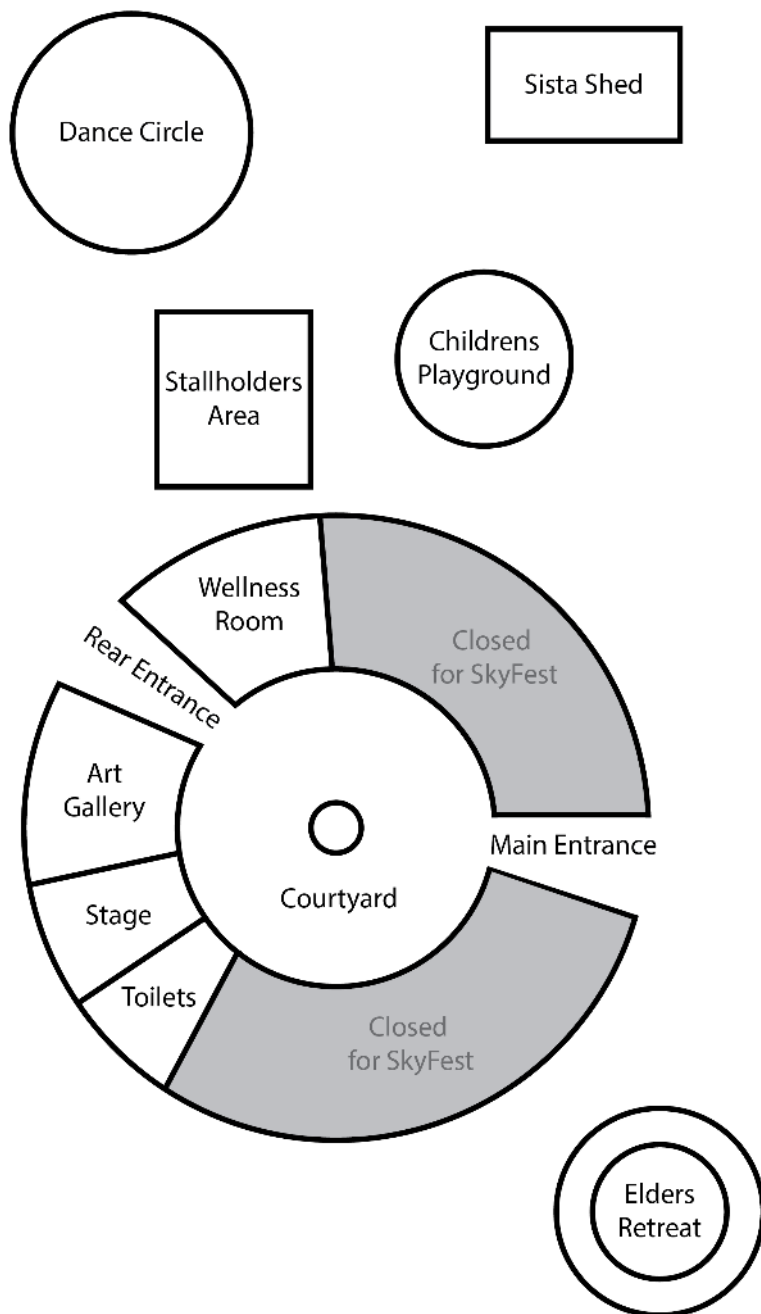


Damon Goolagong & Nicky Read
Galari Pathways Officers

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ARTISTS,
KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

SKYFEST 2024 FESTIVAL MAP

If you need assistance, please approach someone wearing a SkyFest Mudyi (friend) shirt.
Map not to scale.



Time	Event	Location
Children's Entertainment		
11am - 12 noon	Uncle Johnny "Barley" Huckle	Stage
11am – 1pm	Boomerang Painting Workshop	Courtyard
11am – 1pm	Face Painting	Courtyard
12 noon - 1pm	Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga	Stage
Dance Performances		
1pm - 2pm	Local and visiting artists including Steve Taylor and Jo Clancy	Dance Circle
5pm - 6pm		Dance Circle
Workshops		
11am	Boomerang Throwing Displays with Uncle Dick Richards	Near Dance Circle
1pm		
1pm - 2pm	Wiradjuri Language Lesson with Aunty Di Riley	Wellness Room
1pm - 5pm	Weaving for women & Girls with Bev Coe and Mary Wighton-Packham	Sista Shed
2pm	Clapstick and Emu Callers with Joe Coe - Men & Boys Workshop. Until supplies run out.	Stallholders Area
3pm	Boomerang Throwing Displays with Uncle Dick Richards	Near Dance Circle
3pm - 4pm	Wiradjuri Language Lesson with Aunty Iris Reid	Wellness Room
5pm - 6pm	Wiradjuri Language Lesson with Marion Wighton-Packham	Wellness Room
Performances		
4pm	Outback Theatre For Young People - Condobolin High School Students	Courtyard
Art Exhibitions		
All day	The Sista Shed display of painting and weaving work	Art Gallery
All day	The Galari Youth Program	Art Gallery
Music Performances		
2pm – 3pm	Tahalianna Soward-Mahanga	Stage
3pm - 4pm	Todd William Singer Songwriter	Stage
6pm - 7pm	Uncle Johnny "Barley" Huckle	Stage
7pm - 8pm	Anthony Riley & Brian Ah-See	Stage
8pm - 9pm	Todd William Singer Songwriter	Stage
Astronomy and Sky Stories		
Dark to 9.30pm	Steve Taylor and Donna the Astronomer explore sky stories and the stars.	Near Dance Circle

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture

OUTBACK
THEATRE
FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE



New South Wales
Aboriginal Land Council





Mandaang guwu (thank you) to the Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation board, staff members and event team for their support in making SkyFest 2024 a reality.

