



WMYAC BACKS YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHINE

Elders, community leaders and young people from Roebourne came together in Hobart recently to support the work of **Big hART** and announce continued funding support from **Wirlu-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (WMYAC)**.

“Big hART’s work in the community is imperative, enabling our young people to step up and shine, grow skills and build strong futures.” said **Michelle Adams, Director of WMYAC**. “It takes resources and great people to believe in the young people who are standing here today.”

WMYAC Director Allery Sandy said “The whole of the Big hART project has been so inspiring. Kids are clever and if the right people come they encourage and strengthen their behaviour. Thank you to Big hART for all you have done for our community.”

Roebourne student, mentor and former Big hART participant Max Coppin also spoke at the event in Hobart, alongside Ally Lockyer and Nelson Coppin saying “Big hART has shown us opportunities that leadership and courage are important. This has helped us grow and work out our futures.”

CEO of Big hART Scott Rankin said “We’re absolutely thrilled with WMYAC’s generous and ongoing support through to 2019. Collaborative and meaningful partnerships like the one we have with WMYAC is essential to Big hART’s work in communities. If further government support comes through we will be able to continue working with the community long into the future.”

Big hART’s work in Roebourne in 2018 has been particularly focused on the young people of Roebourne, with a vast suite of workshops, mentor and trainee opportunities being rolled out, as well as growing a regular music event for the community ‘The Sunday Sessions’.

In Big hART’s workshop program young people have been skilling up on how to make podcasts, learning the craft of audio storytelling, sound recording, production and broadcast journalism. They have also been mentored in speech writing and presentation, event design and management, photography and continue to participate in music, dance and cultural workshops.

Big hART’s trainee program supports young leaders of the community, building on their strengths, interests and aspirations, providing skills opportunities and platforms for them to self-entrepreneur their career and take their natural leadership and mentoring capabilities to the next level.

Big hART would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank **Fortescue Metals Group** for their continued support of Big hART’s work in Roebourne.

Elizabeth Gaines, CEO of Fortescue said “Empowering young people in Roebourne to build resilience, skills and capacity is something that Fortescue is very pleased to support to ensure that our growth and development benefits the whole community. We are proud that Yindjibarndi people through WMYAC have determined to provide significant support to Big hART and in doing so share their own success and continue their strong leadership in the Roebourne community.”

Big hART’s work in Roebourne wouldn’t be possible without the support of the Roebourne elders and current program sponsors, community members and key organisations including Pilbara Development Commission and Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation.

Big hART is Australia’s leading arts campaigning organisation, telling Australia’s most invisible stories. Begun 25 years ago in NW Tasmania, Big hART has since gone on to work in over 50 disadvantaged communities in regional, remote and urban Australia, winning over 45 awards. Big hART’s focus is to make art, build community and drive change and over the years this has seen the charity work in the areas of domestic violence, incarceration, addiction, homelessness, and intergenerational injustice faced by Indigenous Australians.



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