



THRIVING DURING COVID - THE COMMUNITY OF ROEBOURNE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF CREATIVE PROJECTS

In 2020, Big hART celebrates 10 years working with the innovative, resilient community of Ieramugadu (Roebourne), who despite COVID-19 challenges, continue to thrive and push ahead with music, creative projects and positive public events in a safe, strong way.

“Arts and culture means connection and community, it’s a way of life. We portray identity through arts and culture” said Patrick Churnside, Ngarluma Leader and Performer and Big hART Board Member.

“Big hART’s focus is also about being connected through arts and culture. The positive energy and approach they’ve brought to Roebourne has helped support our community’s hopes for the future, facilitating change and new pathways.”

Big hART was first invited by senior women Elders to work in Roebourne in 2010. Deep listening and community consultation informed the work of our **Yijala Yala Project**, and we now build on that legacy with the **New Roebourne** initiative, supporting the community to help create a strong future.

This year, the work of New Roebourne will see the return of Songs for Peace for a third year, and inter-generational celebrations of music, peace and social harmony in the town. From August through to September there will be a workshop program for young people, community members and at Yaandina Aged Care Centre; and intimate music gatherings at the John Pat Peace Place at sunset. Over at Roebourne Regional Prison there will be songwriting workshops with a special focus on language and new music genres, as well as movement workshops for women inmates. This will culminate in a community concert featuring WA and local artists on Saturday 19th September, to mark the International Day of Peace.

At the Digital Lab in our new space in Wellard St, Roebourne, young people are discovering new digital literacies and developing vibrant new work through digital illustration, story, animation and film. 2020 also sees NEO-Learning, the fun, new digital resource for schools co-created by young people in Roebourne, piloting in schools around the country. Young women continue to grow through Digital O building confidence, leadership, advocacy and new digital tech pathways.

Big hART continues to work with Roebourne District High School to support the creativity and ambitions of young people through weekly sessions in partnership with Girls Academy and offering after-school workshops which builds new skills and aspirations in young people, and re-engagement in education.

Big hART’s work in Roebourne in 2020 is proudly supported by Wirlu-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, Ngarliyarndu Bindirri, Fortescue Metals Group, Telstra Foundation, Restore Hope Foundation, the National Indigenous Australians Agency, The Tony Foundation, COINS, City of Karratha, Regional Arts WA, The Australia Council, Foundation for Rural and Regional Development, the Government of Western Australia, the Pilbara Development Commission, the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation, the West Australian Police, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation, Roebourne District High School, the Westpac Foundation, the Graeme Wood Foundation, the Blacket Family and Mr Paul Barnett.

Big hART focuses on what is strong, working with communities to make art, build community and drive change. Founded in 1992, Big hART is a charity which has worked in over 50 communities in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and won over 45 awards.

To find out more about Big hART’s New Roebourne project, visit our new website: <https://newroebourne.bighart.org>



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NEW
ROEBOURNE