



MEDIA RELEASE

Territory Band Featured in SBS Documentary

A television documentary tracing a Top End journey by two Australian celebrities is set to produce an unexpected boost for Arnhem Land garage band Nabarlek.

Nabarlek features in the SBS four-part series *Going Bush* that traces last year's four-wheel-drive journey from Broome in Western Australia to Arnhem Land by Olympic champion Cathy Freeman and actress Deborah Mailman.

The band, with a combined \$20,000 in funding from Arts NT, SBS and Lonely Planet TV, will celebrate their role in the documentary with a major promotional event at Melbourne's Federation Square on February 25.

The nine members of Nabarlek were at the tiny Arnhem Land outstation of Manmoyi recording their third studio album *Manmoyi Radio* in September last year when Freeman and Mailman dropped in to visit the band.

"When Cathy and Debbie got out of their car and came to see us, we just couldn't believe it," Nabarlek lead singer Terrah Guymala said.

"We had a really long chat about a whole heap of stuff, like what have been our proudest moments, and then Debbie and Cathy wanted to jam with us.

"Debbie asked to sing "Land Down Under" with me and Cathy hopped on the keyboards so it was really fun jamming with them.

"They actually stayed the night and it is something we will always remember, not just the band, but also the kids and elders who live in the outstation."

Guymala said the band's last trip to Melbourne was in March last year for a tour that including performing at the 2005 Port Fairy Festival and that they were really looking forward to next month's trip.

"We are really excited about going down there and performing, it will be a really huge event for us," Guymala said.

"And we are really grateful for the support we are receiving to make this trip possible.

"When the band first got together 20 years ago I thought we would have to do everything on our own but we have got so much support from many different places and that has been tremendous."

Guymala said the band had completed *Manmoyi Radio's* "rough cut" and that the finishing touches would be added in the next few weeks.

Arts NT contributed \$5000 towards Nabarlek's journey to Melbourne while SBS and Lonely Planet TV have contributed a combined \$15,000.

The first episode of *Going Bush* screens on SBS on February 1 at 7.30pm.

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