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MEDIA RELEASE

**NEWMAN'S WA DAY FESTIVAL AND PORT HEDLAND'S STATE OF THE ART FESTIVAL CELEBRATE THE VERY BEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Returning after huge success in 2018, two highly popular FREE festivals are on in the Pilbara this WA Day, with the Civic Centre Gardens in Port Hedland and The Square in Newman showcasing the very best of local talent, culture and everything that makes our State great.

After a successful inaugural State of the Art (SOTA) Music Festival in 2018, Port Headland residents will experience another sister SOTA Music Festival in the Civic Centre Gardens in 2019.

The FREE, all-ages gig on WA Day, Monday 3 June, from 3pm to 8pm features a spectacular line up of home-grown artists, including local Pilbara musicians. The crowd will be up dancing all evening with tunes including Southern River Band's debut single from their forthcoming record, Rumour and Innuendo as well as performances by Bradley Hall Band, Frank's Fish Tank, MissGenius, and Bella Blakemore.

Bringing Rock and Roll with a dash of Boogie Woogie and a sprinkle of country to the Port Headland SOTA Music Festival will be the Southern River Band. Influenced by the purest rock and roll bands of the 70's and 80's the band will have Festival goers up dancing all evening.

Bradley Hall will bring a uniquely East Pilbara sound to the stage with his distinctive country style. A Nyiyparli man who has been travelling and touring with his band throughout Western Australia and Queensland, Bradley returns to the Pilbara to delight crowds with his third full length release, Back to Country (2018).

MissGenius will also be lighting up the stage at SOTA Festival. With her flare, meticulous beat selection and soulful vocals, Maduwongga and Noongar woman MissGenius will delight Festival goers with her original songs that reflect her inspiring life experiences.

Belting out classic old-time tunes and original folk songs with their half 70's half classical renaissance style, Frank's Fish Tank, a bluegrass folk trio from Perth will also make an appearance. The trio will bring a cool, edgy vibe to this year's Festival.

Bella Blackmore will grace the stage with her original heartfelt and soulful songs. Bella, who now calls Port Headland home uses a foot stomp for rhythm to accompany her guitar playing and impressive vocal range – the SOTA crowd are sure to feel relaxed when listening to her sweet tunes.

There will be a range of delicious food trucks at the Festival at Street Eats, with something to keep everyone in the family happy.

The Square in Newman – hosted by the Shire of East Pilbara – will come alive on Monday 3 June from 10am to 5pm with free activities for the whole family including community markets, live music and a variety of kid's entertainment with inflatables and face painting.

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Crowds will be treated to performances by local bands Esther, Tiriki, Robber's Dog and Short & Curly who will be pumping out West Aussie music all day long, while The Square's big screen will showcase short films for all ages, produced by local film makers and featuring local stories supported by Screenwest WA.

Community markets presented by Red Desert Events will delight anyone looking to pick up a uniquely Western Australian item on WA Day, featuring locally made artworks, products and produce – celebrating all things WA and Pilbara.

For festival goers who have worked up an appetite Outback Beef will be offering a taste of the Pilbara, dishing up delectable favourites that will be sure to make everyone's taste buds tingle. Taste of WA will bring culinary diversity to the Festival with stalls showcasing the best of West Aussie produce.

Celebrate WA Chairman Michael Anghie said WA Day was a time for Western Australians to celebrate all the fantastic things about the State.

“As Western Australians we have so much to be proud of. Across the world we're celebrated for our can-do attitude, our entrepreneurship, our good humour, hard work and our sense of community - all things that Western Australian's are proud to live by. This WA Day I hope everyone in the community comes together to celebrate everything that makes us and our State great,” he said.

Those unable to make it to the State of the Art Port Hedland Music Festival and WA Day celebrations in Newman are invited to join the fun at eight additional events around the state including Burswood Park, Fremantle, Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Onslow and Pinjarra.

The WA Day Festival is made possible thanks to event sponsors BHP, the State Government of Western Australia and Lotterywest.

ENDS

#### **Key Links**

[www.waday.com](http://www.waday.com)

[www.facebook.com/WADayFestival/](https://www.facebook.com/WADayFestival/)

[www.facebook.com/sotafestival/](https://www.facebook.com/sotafestival/)

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#### **About Celebrate WA**

Celebrate WA is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for promoting and organising the annual WA Day celebrations; promoting excellence and achievement by Western Australians in all fields of endeavour; and encouraging pride in all things Western Australian.

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