



Moreland City Council

Moreland City Council  
90 Bell Street  
Coburg VIC 3058  
03 9240 2268

[info@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moreland.vic.gov.au)  
[www.moreland.vic.gov.au](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au)

## Media Alert for immediate release



Josh Owen Band

### THE 22<sup>nd</sup> BRUNSWICK MUSIC FESTIVAL'S FREE OPENING EVENT

#### MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE

Saturday 27 February, 12 pm – 4.30 pm  
Coburg Town Hall, 90 Bell Street, Coburg

Josh Owen Band, Kutcha Edwards, Jessie Lloyd, Peter Rotumah, Sol Nation

**Music For The People:** *Let Them Eat Cake*. An afternoon of musical treats and cultural sweets.

Visitors to this year's 22nd annual Brunswick Music Festival's free opening event, Music for the People are guaranteed to have their music and eat cake too, with an afternoon of free entertainment showcasing an impressive line up of artists from the Melbourne live music scene.

Saturday 27 February sees Coburg Town Hall play host to an intimate performance by well known Indigenous musician and radio personality **Kutcha Edwards**, joined by **Peter Rotumah** and **Jessie Lloyd** that weaves song with Koorie stories in a **Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation** show.

Also performing, **Sol Nation** further enriches the cultural music experience, drawing influences from East Timorese folksong, Indigenous and Jamaican reggae and African dance music. Sol Nation presents an infectious selection of high energy music that is guaranteed to get toes tapping.

The **Josh Owen Band** provides the final ingredient to the afternoon's free musical feast, treating patrons to a modern day spin on spiritual soul. Arguably one of Melbourne's brightest up and coming ensembles on the live music scene today, Owen's style have been likened to such music greats as Ben Harper and Hendrix.

Event patrons can also enjoy the program of multicultural music on the lawn and indulge a sweet tooth with the delicious selection of traditional sweets on offer representing the City of Moreland's cultural diversity. Information will be available on how local artists can join Council's **Made in Moreland** collection of over 300 locally produced CDs.

Music for the People is presented by **Moreland City Council** and supported by **3ZZZ radio** and **Friends of Aileu**.

All media enquiries to Kaye Roberts-Palmer, Media and Communications Officer on 9240 1118



Jessie Lloyd



Sol Nation



Kutcha Edwards

*"The exciting new direction of this event displays Councils commitment to supporting and promoting both emerging and established artists. It is sure to become a favourite on many event goers calendars".*  
Alice Pryor - Councillor

## Music for the People Media Release - Additional Information

- **Brunswick Music Festival**

<http://www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au/>

<http://www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au/information-music-for-people.htm>

The Brunswick Music Festival has been held annually in February-March since 1989 and is one of Victoria's premier music festivals and the City of Moreland's biggest multicultural and arts event. The City of Moreland is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia with 35% of its residents born outside Australia and with many languages other than English spoken in the home. Cultural activities have produced a vibrant artistic community with a growing emergence in the last decade. This influx of artists continues to shape and change the cultural life of the City. Amidst this colourful backdrop, the Brunswick Music Festival has thrived, bringing a world of music to our doorsteps! The festival embraces in its programming several major community celebrations, including the free Music for the People Concert at the Coburg Town Hall (Saturday afternoon) and Sydney Road Street Party (Sunday), which is held as a signal for the beginning of festival celebrations.

- **Josh Owen Band**

<http://www.joshowen.com.au/>

<http://www.myspace.com/joshowenband>

The Josh Owen Band have seen both their debut independent live album and studio EP receive massive critical acclaim and airplay all over Australia, including Triple J, Triple R, PBS, FBI, ABC 702 and 774, Dig Radio, RTR to name a few. Save Me Save Me was recently voted 1 on Triple J's Unearthed Roots chart, and SonyBMG have selected Save Me Save Me as one of their Hottest Picks in the current voting round of the UncharTED online band comp. Both CDs have been released in Japan and a track has been released on a Brazilian surf compilation. They have become festival regulars around Australia and New Zealand since 2007.

Josh is quick to point out that his first priority is writing "really good songs" and then utilising elements of soul, funk and reggae. He's been quoted as saying that "...in the blues-roots thing, I find a lot of artists doing something that's really, really generic...just a little bit further along from a twelve bar (blues progression)...The difference with me, I guess, is that I'm applying elements of 'blues' to songwriting." Accompanied by Luke Hodgson on bass and Jason Heerah on drums, Josh is able to draw on their experience as well as his own to further enhance the music they create.

With two highly successful releases behind him, and an endless soulful stream within, Josh Owen's dynamic personality and impressive stage presence look set to take him all the way from the streets of Melbourne onto the world stage. When Josh's debut album "The Josh Owen Band Live" was released Melbourne's Sunday Herald Sun summed it up when they wrote: "Get in on the ground floor for a young man on the rise". Their words have certainly proved prophetic. The album sold out two pressings and is now on a third and received such great airplay that Josh followed up with a special edition studio EP entitled "6pm".

- **Songlines Music Aboriginal Corporation**

<http://www.songlines.net.au/>

Songlines: Healing the Land and her peoples through the harmony of music, dance and song. Songlines is Victoria's peak Aboriginal music body, a not-for-profit organisation which supports Aboriginal youth to develop their music skills, learn about and promote their culture; provide professional support to Indigenous Musicians to assist them to develop their music and contribute to their communities; assist to create and facilitate touring and performance opportunities for Indigenous Musicians and promote understanding, reconciliation and healing by bringing different cultures and peoples together through workshops, festivals, concerts and gigs.

- **Peter Rotumah**

<http://www.blackarmband.com.au/peter-rotumah/>

Peter Rotumah began performing in Melbourne in the early 1970s. As a member of the band Hard Times he wrote and performed several original songs. He studied music at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Adelaide and went on to play bass in Djaambi and various community bands before setting up his own band, 3 Gubbas & Me (later known as The Peter Rotumah Band). After touring the USA, he ventured into theatre, composing for and performing in numerous plays. His work earned him a nomination for a Green Room Award for Sound Design. He has also produced and played music for Koori children's circus, Circus Tarrangoss.

- **Kutcha Edwards**

<http://www.kutcha-edwards.com/>

Kutcha is a Mutti Mutti man, born in Balranald, New South Wales, Australia. He was 'stolen' at 18 months and denied his birthright to grow up with his family, to experience his culture and to live his identity. As a teenager he was reunited with his family and so his journey began to retrieve his identity and reclaim what was denied him, his family and his community.

For the last 19 years Kutcha has worked in the community at various organisations in Melbourne such as the Aboriginal Community Elders Services (ACES), Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Fitzroy Stars Youth Club Gymnasium and the Koorie Open Door Education School at Glenroy. During this period Kutcha developed a strong interest in working with Koori youth. The key issues that motivate his work are to empower youth with a strong sense of self worth, self expression, self belief and self determination.

Kutcha has developed his community work through education, health, art, culture and politics. Music became his voice to express community stories and his own songline. In recent years Kutcha has experienced personal success through his music. For many years he was the lead singer in Blackfire and has since formed Kutcha Edwards and Band. He has travelled to China, Mexico and Japan. His motivation is simple...to heal the spirit, strengthen community and family. What Kutcha shares with his people is a connection, a belonging. It is his gift that in his own journey of healing he is able to help heal others

- **Jessie Lloyd**

<http://www.myspace.com/djivamusic>

<http://djiva.net/>

The award-winning group Djiva is a West Australian act fronted by two female vocalists who perform cruisey infusions of gutsy soul, folk and roots. Djiva exhibit an earthy sensuality, an independence of spirit and a fresh contemporary feel, and the voices of the two women blend with the ease of old friends, creating a vocal palette rich in colour and texture.

Djiva (Jeeva) is Jessie Lloyd, a Murri from North Queensland and Della Rae Morrison, a Noongar of the South West of Western Australia.

Singing in English and traditional languages, the pair has been performing with their 3 piece band since 2004, releasing their debut EP the same year. Despite its low key release, the EP received Australia-wide airplay and the band was subsequently featured on ABC TV's Message Stick. In 2007 Djiva released its debut album "Yowarliny" to wide acclaim. Picking up the 2007 NAIDOC Perth Award for Artist of the Year, Djiva also won the 2007 WA Music Industry Song of the Year - World & Folk category and was nominated at both the 2008 and 2009 WAMi Awards as WA's Best Indigenous Act.

- **Sol Nation**

<http://www.myspace.com/solnation>

East Timorese vocalist Paulo Almeida is the voice of Sol Nation, soaring and weaving through the music in a mixture of languages, a product of his life experience living in several different countries during his homeland's occupation by Indonesia. Languages include English, Portuguese and his mother tongue Tetum.

Paulo was part of the Dili Allstars, an Australian and East Timorese reggae/ska band based in Melbourne. Most famous for their role in the independence of East Timor (where the band remains enormously popular

today), they remain both one of the leading voices of support for the East Timorese people and a popular musical group. Band members advised on the soundtrack to the film "Balibo". Paulo is supported by the very gifted Indigenous songstress Deline Briscoe, whose rich voice and deep musicality magnify the stories and messages told through Sol Nation's music.

Stylistically the music draws its influences from Indigenous and Jamaican reggae, traditional East Timorese folksong, African dance music and hip hop. The band has used music to highlight the problems faced by the people of East Timor, and to push for International justice on their behalf. With a strong global conscience and a commitment to presenting high energy and infectious music to audiences around the world, Sol Nation is a unique Australian musical experience.

- **3ZZZ Radio**

<http://www.3zzz.com.au/>

Radio 3ZZZ is the largest ethnic community station in Australia. Located at 92.3 on the FM radio band, 3ZZZ started broadcasting on a regular basis in June 1989. Working from studios in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy, the station is heard across the Melbourne metropolitan region, as far as Geelong to the west and Macedon to the north. Broadcasting 24 hours a day, it is estimated that more than 400,000 people listen to 3ZZZ every week. The station can now be heard across all Australia and the rest of the world through internet broadcasting.

3ZZZ is a community-based radio station, primarily financed by listener subscriptions and donations, through sponsorship, and through special fundraising events including the annual Radiothon. Radio 3ZZZ also receives government funding through the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

There are more than 5,000 financial members from nearly 63 ethnic groups affiliated with the station. All the major ethnic communities living in Melbourne are represented. Up to 400 volunteers broadcast in one of these 70 community languages for and on behalf of their own community.

- **Made in Moreland**

<http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moreland-libraries/talks-activities/made-in-moreland.html>

Moreland is home to a diverse population of musicians, writers and filmmakers. To celebrate and preserve this artistic and cultural wealth, Moreland's library service created the Made in Moreland program in 2002 to support and promote local musicians, writers and filmmakers.

As part of Made in Moreland, the library actively seeks to purchase CDs by local musicians. Copies are placed in the library's general lending collections, with one copy of each CD also kept in the library's local history collection, thereby preserving Moreland's musical history for future generations.

A specially designed Made in Moreland sticker highlights local CDs as well as books and films by Moreland residents or those that have a special connection with the area. The Made in Moreland collection now comprises over 280 CDs and is still growing.

- **Friends of Aileu**

<http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/community-services/friendship-cities/friends-of-aileu/about-friends-of-aileu.html>

Moreland City Council, with Hume City Council, established a friendship relationship with the District of Aileu in Timor-Leste (East Timor) in 2000. Aileu is located in a mountainous area south of the capital, Dili.

Council's vision is that by 2010, the Friends of Aileu will have established strong links with the District Administration and people of Aileu; developed an enhanced capacity, in both Melbourne and in Aileu, to develop and implement projects to assist the people of Aileu to meet their goals; put in place successful projects, built on our past achievements, based on principles of self-sufficiency, sustainability and mutual capacity-building; created new initiatives, focused on social investment in young people, in both Melbourne and in Aileu.