

**PROFILES:
ARTISTS,
PRESENTERS,
MUSICIANS**

Sacredodge

Spirituality in Diversity

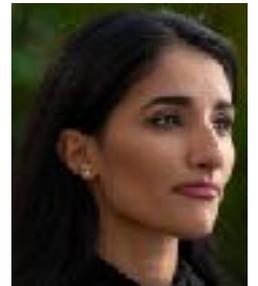


MOJO JUJU

Mojo Juju, has been a troubadour, a soothsayer, a shapeshifter and a darn good songwriter. Now, after a decade honing the art of story-telling, she's made the boldest move imaginable; she has decided to finally just be the story. Her third studio album 'Native Tongue' is exactly that; Through the telling of family history and her own personal experiences, Juju explores her relationships with Elders and Ancestry and how that informs her own identity.

FADAK ALFAYADH

Fadak is a community lawyer, advocate and 15 year ago, she was refugee. After being fed up with the narrative around refugees and migrant communities, Fadak created the "Meet Fadak" speaking tour. Though the campaign, she highlights Australia's strength in diversity and wants to change the story about refugees. Fadak is an international and local speaker and commentator on topics that include asylum seekers, immigration, diversity, identity and feminist issues.



THE BLACK SISTAZ

The Black Sistaz - Lea, Rosa & Petra Rumwaropen, are three West Papuan singers with a powerful message, standing strong for a FREE WEST PAPUA! Arriving as one of the first West Papuan refugee families, the Australian based group musically communicates the journey of living a life in exile. Daughters of the late August Rumwaropen of legendary Black Brothers Band of West Papua, the sisters are renowned as backing vocalists for Australian Reggae Roots band Blue King Brown.



LIOR

One of Australia's most successful singer-songwriters, renowned for his beautiful voice and songs that radiate truth and sincerity, Lior has toured extensively internationally and has been a regular performer at WOMAD & art festivals around the world, including the Edinburgh Festival. He has toured in collaboration with vocal artists, visual artists, string quartets and full orchestras. Lior released his fifth studio album 'Between You and Me' August 2018



TAKI KAHN

Taqi Khan holds a deep-seated passion for music. "Music is how I make people from my own community, and wider communities, happy and cheerful – something I have been deprived of all throughout life. I share my pain through my music. I tell the silenced stories of my people's painful history to the world with my music." Taqi has performed with MultiCultural Arts Vic. and appeared at events for the Emerge Festival around Victoria.



PARVYN SINGH & JOSH BENNET

A stripped-back duo perfect for intimate house concerts and acoustic venues, drawing on a vast range of musical styles and influences, Parvyn and Josh combine stunning virtuosity with warm harmonies, melody and groove. Between their original compositions are some of their favourite traditional and contemporary songs from far-flung genres including jazz, blues, classical Indian, and folk.



CHRIS CSABS

is an LGBTI+ advocate and survivor of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE). His campaign at change.org/EndGayCures has gained wide support, and prompted policy changes on the issue. He is co-writer of the SOCE Survivor Statement sent to PM Scott Morrison. Chris has written and spoken extensively about his experiences and the need to end SOCE in Australia. He has recently appeared in the reality TV show "Christians Like Us" on SBS.



MELANIE WELLS

Melanie's favourite place is Macquarie Island with her friend, the Albatross. She loves "getting in sync with the rhythm of life . . . and becoming engrossed within a fiercely divine wilderness." She studied in Marine Biology at Deakin Uni and spent time in Warrnambool at the Middle Island Penguin project made famous by the movie "Oddball". She continues as a Casual Academic, and travels on research trips to study marine and bird life on Macquarie Island.



CHRISTINA ROWNTREE

Coordinator, Theology and the Arts, Pilgrim Theological College, Uniting Church. Christina is accredited as an Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator. Christina, with help from Festival participants, will create a public Labyrinth create a temporary labyrinth over the weekend in the park, a short distance from the festival site. including a World Labyrinth Day walk and an evening Candlelight with Harp walk.



DANIEL WITTHAUS

Author, Education Consultant, Inspirational Speaker, Storyteller/Performer. Daniel has spent two decades challenging homophobia one cuppa at a time in schools, rural communities & places like Sri Lanka, Poland & Indonesia.. In 2013 Daniel founded the National Institute for Challenging Homophobia Education, which focuses on the needs of LGBTIQ people in regional, rural and remote Australia. Daniel has been a regular at SacredEdge.



TONY BRIFFA

is passionate about working with families of young intersex people and protecting them from unnecessary and coerced medical intervention. They are a public speaker, educator, passionate human rights activist and a Co-executive Director of Intersex Human Rights Australia, Vice-President of the AISSG Australia, Intersex Chair of ILGA World, board member of ILGA Oceania and a member of various government LGBTI advisory committees.



TRISH WATTS

Trish is a Performing Artist, Singer/Songwriter, Music Therapist, Teacher and Choir Director. Her approach to life evokes joy, energy, freedom, trust and connection. Cofounder of InterPlay Australia, Trish seeks to free the natural voice for playful daily encounters. She was music director for the Sydney Threshold Choir for 4 years, then co-founded the not-for-profit 'Cambodia Sings' and directed the Cambodia Threshold Choir & Phnom Penh Community Choir for 3 years.



TONY HOLE

Tony has performed in a variety of global-fusion bands over many years. He is a teacher & performer of InterPlay's improvisational practices in storytelling, dance and music. With a background and interest in mindfulness and meditation, Tony is passionate about Taketina as a moving meditation practice. Tony will bring his lively percussion skills to SacredEdge



NAMILA BENSON :

is a writer, radio producer and educator who engages in heartfelt discussions around race, culture, identity & belonging. This year she joins an impressive panel to discuss ideas of Home; the ways we create, build, connect with - and sometimes, lose - a sense of home. Her upcoming podcast, "Where The Heart Is", also delves into survival, refuge, homelessness, mental health, family & more. Currently, Namila is ghostwriting the memoir of a much-loved and respected Indigenous Elder & survivor of the Stolen Generation."





IDIL ALI

is a Somali woman whose work spans writing, spoken word, & community organising. She is Youth Practitioner at Drummond St. Services, and supervises VoiceFest music & arts festival for youth. Idil writes for herself and shares for anyone who resonates. Her rhythmic, honest and sometimes snarky poetry has featured at Afrohub, Fem&ist festival, NGV, MPavillion, Ferdurdurke & Yirramboi First Nations arts festival.

PADRAIG O'TUAMA

is a poet and theologian based in Belfast with interests in religion, conflict and storytelling. Soon to conclude his role as the leader of the Corrymeela Community, his written work has received critical acclaim from circles of poetry, psychology and theology. In 2011, he, with his partner Paul, founded the Tenx9 storytelling project, a project that has spread to cities across Europe, Australia and North America.



AWALE AHMED

is a multilingual writer & storyteller who shares stories through poetry. Born in Somalia, he grew up in the middle east & recently migrated to Australia. He firmly believes that artists are the true guardians of our creativity, childhood spirit and imagination. An advocate for social justice and refugee rights, he believes in the power of sharing the human experience and spreading joy and happiness to others.



FABLICE MANIRAKIZA

grew up as a child soldier in war-torn Burundi. In 2007 he escaped, arriving in Australia as a refugee to build his life in music. Now a rap icon among Australian youth, he performs at concerts & workshops across Australia, East Timor and Africa. Fablice was named 2016 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year. He inspires and connects with his audiences to deliver a message of resilience and hope for our future.



LEILA GURRUWIWI

is a Panel Member on the Marngrook Footy Show and co-producer of an up-coming reality show with a working title Dance Off, being filmed in Arnhem Land. She was born in north-east Arnhem Land and moved to Bendigo, spending her school years there. She has a particular interest in indigenous culture, as well as the representation of indigenous people and women in the Australian media.



GRACE DLABIK

is founder of BE. COLLECTIVE CULTURE – A Creative Hub for Young Free Thinkers. Dubbed "Melbourne's best kept secret," Grace developed a deep passion for understanding what makes younger generations tick, and she quickly grew into a youth culture expert. Entrepreneur, visionary and mother of one, she is finding ways to use her expertise in creative direction, styling, and marketing to promote social good.



MARI-KO WHYTE

is a passionate Artist practising Poi over five years and Fire-twirling for four years. Poi involves swinging tethered weights through a variety of rhythmical and geometric patterns. Fire-twirling is the same, with fire! Mari-ko performs at festivals and throughout Victoria. Falling in love with the liquid flow of poi and the wild burning flame Mari-ko has grown a strong passion for firetwirling.



MARIAM ISSA

has inspired countless women to stop seeing themselves as victims, and to unleash their full potential. She has established the RAW (Resilient Aspiring Women) Garden at her Brighton home and, through gardening, storytelling, crafts & cooking nurtures women in the community. Moving from Somalia's war-torn Mogadisho to the World's most livable city Melbourne, Mariam uses cooking, gardening and public speaking to create a healing space for women and unlock potential.



RO ALLEN Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality

is a longstanding advocate for LGBTI Victorians and held positions in the community & government sectors. As founding CEO of UnitingCare Cutting Edge, Ro established Victoria's first rural support group for young LGBTI people. Recognised for community service and inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll for Women, Ro was recently listed in the Top 50 Public Sector Women (Vic) and won Hero of the Year in the Aust. LGBTI Awards.



NAOMI WELLS

has a strong connection to the earth and finds joy in those small moments; a butterfly, the sunset, a cool breeze. She can't help but want to preserve the world's beauty. Her favourite quote: "We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." It is the small changes that can make a difference. Naomi has a B. Sc. with Honours in Ornithology, and loves volunteering with local environmental groups



PEARL TAYLOR

is a vibrant artist, art therapist and art educator. With a heart for disability and mental health advocacy. She believes that art-making ignites self-regulation, engagement, connection, belonging & community. She supports people to connect experiences & existential concepts, to weave personal meaning, metaphor, ritual, identity, and depth. She will offer contemplative spaces and active creative engagements as we open 'doorways to diversity'.



JUDY STICKLAND

will bring the sounds of Eastern Singing Bowls in a time of meditation, an opportunity to relax and be uplifted by the mystical sounds of the bowls, discovering your inner peace through quiet reflection. Judy has practiced and taught Yoga for many years. She is also a skilled artist, and practices the meditative art of Mandala painting. She is co-curator of the SacredEdge Exhibition.



CELINE YAP (LITTLEFOOT)

is a folk singer/songwriter known for tackling political issues of refugee rights, environment, & social justice issues in the Philippines, her home country. As a 3CR radio presenter, she brings a blend of music, storytelling, and a dash of humour her show. She uses art, creativity & song writing to encourage conversation & debate around social & environmental issues.



JENNY BATTEN

Jenny is working towards a Masters in Therapeutic Arts Practices. She enjoys discovering new ways of being through art and continues to pursue her music interests with the Melb. Singers of Gospel and in leading the Melb. Threshold Choir. She is an accredited InterPlay leader and applies Body Wisdom practices to integrate mind, body & spirit through story, voice & movement.



PETER BATTEN

Peter is a Uniting Church minister, Creative Arts Therapist, & accredited InterPlay leader. He enjoys exploring the connections between contemplative practices, spirituality, art and creativity and their integration into daily life. He has a background in sacred Clowning/mime, Peter has taught clown skills, and he continues to perform in a variety of community and institutional settings.



SUMAYA HARARE

At the age of 7, Sumaya arrived in Melbourne with her family as a refugee from Somalia. She was bullied & ostracised in school, so immersed herself in drawing and listening to her mothers stories - a re-imagination of how she saw herself & the world around her. Sumaya has been a regular at SacredEdge Festivals, accompanying her mother and presenter Mariam Issa as a participant.





YASBELLE KERKOW

is an Australian-born, Fijian artist. Her work focuses on promoting Pasifika communities in Australia and communicating Pacific stories through the arts. Her arts practice interrogates visual art, video, poetry and voice. She is a community arts facilitator and leader of a collective of emerging Pasifika artists based in Narm (Melbourne) called New Wayfinders.

TARNEEN ONUS WILLIAMS

is a Yigar Gunditjmara, Bindal, Yorta Yorta person. She is a community organiser for Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance working on Invasion Day, Black Deaths in Custody, Justice for Elijah & Stop the forced closures of Aboriginal Communities in WA. She is passionate about prison abolition and the power of young Aboriginal people. Her writing has been published in IndigenousX, The Saturday Paper, NITV & RightNow.



LLOYD MEADOWS

is a young upcoming musician from the cultural heart of Victoria, Castlemaine. He livened up the marquee at SacredEdge last year with the Wilsons, and has now released his own EP on Bandcamp, entitled "Oxford Synthesizer Club", a smooth and relaxing mix of synthesiser and guitar indie pop music.



LUKE EDWARDS

recognises the power, wisdom & mystery that is held in our bodies. His research draws from lived experience to reveal insights about the impact of trauma on the body. Luke gives time to poetry, song-writing, yoga and meditation - which he hopes keeps him grounded. He works as an Education Officer at Edmund Rice Education, developing creative mission led initiatives in Formation, Wellbeing & Sustainability.



ANN SOO & JENNE PERLSTEIN

A Workshop to offer self-care through mindfulness and art, honouring diversity & hearing with compassion. Self-compassion is essential in this less than compassionate world- for those who are suffering or marginalised & trying to create justice, to find a way to be loving to themselves. This enables resilience & compassion in social justice action, care for the Earth, and on the Sacred journey.



PETER ROBERTS

is a Music Thanatologist. He plays harp, one to one, to people at the end of their lives. He also plays for babies and the ill, mostly in St John of God Hospital in Geelong. His pastoral ministry has been extensively studied and recently made into a documentary film. Peter's music wafts through the corridors, bringing peace and compassion to all. Peter will play for the candlelit Labyrinth Walk on the Saturday Evening.



YOUNG EDGERS TEAM-

CATH JAMES, JOEL MEADOWS, ROBYN HODGE, ALEX SANGSTER



CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS & INDIGENOUS ART

ART EXHIBITION TEAM STEVE SINGLE AND JUDY STICKLAND



Natana
Aboriginal Cultural Centre



TARA LYNCH

is a local Yoga Teacher, choreographer and Dancer who is based at the Kyo Yoga Centre in Ocean Grove. She conducts yoga for all ages and all levels of experience, and has volunteered her time to bring yoga sessions to SacredEdge, as well as bringing her enthusiasm and suggestions to include in the whole program.



KAZ MCGLYNN

Barwon Heads Artist and Art Educator Kaz produces paintings, sculptures, ceramics, public art installations and many creative products. She runs Kazworks and artsKool with a focus on developing the artistic imagination in young people. Through her work, she reflects on her personal emotions, ideas and memories of interpersonal relationships and the world around her.

STACEY O'KEEFE

has been working with children for over twenty years, as an indoor sports co-ordinator, in various crèche and daycare centres, and also as a graphic artist. Alongside work and parenting, Stacey runs the online portal "Bellarine Kids", which offers parents a way of accessing information about local services and facilities, groups and events. Stacey is coordinating the childcare program at SacredEdge this year.



ARABIC IRAQI MEAL

Siham and Abdul Geelong Iranian Society will be catering for our evening meal this year- all part of the ticket price. This year we will be serving their delicious lamb kebabs and fabulous and filling salads from the big Marquee in Stokes Street as the program continues in the various venue spaces. These dishes were a feature of their recent Iranian New Year celebrations in Geelong, and they were truly spectacular as well as mouth-watering-good.

THE LITTLE BIRDIE

is a social enterprise cafe based in the community of Norlane. All profits from the cafe go towards supporting that local community. The Café is run with passion by staff and volunteers, who are proud members of the wonderful and spirited community. They pride themselves on serving good food and great coffee, as well as a taste of our wonderful community spirit. Get your coffee at the Little Birdie van on site during SacredEdge 2018!



WEI'S VEGAN LUNCHES

Wei Feng Bird is a local resident who is a passionate vegan, and wants to spread the word about how good vegan food tastes. Wei works in a variety of local jobs including the YMCA at Camp Wyuna and Sea All Dolphins, but more importantly, has offered vegan cooking classes from the Uniting Church through the local neighbourhood house. Best of all, her food is totally delicious! Wei's vegan lunches will be available from the Stokes St Marquee during lunchtimes.

STUART MCCALLUM

On the Lawns on Sunday, enjoy wattleseed and plan damper, cooked on sticks on the campfire. There will also be coal baked spuds and sweet potato. Stuart is a member of the One Fire Reconciliation Group, and makes damper at various community events using traditional indigenous ingredients.

