

## **MELODIC START TO CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR**

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair kicks off Friday August 21 with a concert event featuring Christine Anu, Zennith, Will Kepa and King Kadu at Tanks Art Centre.

*Bipperera-Kymel - The sounds of Far North Queensland* will highlight the incredible diversity of tropical north Queensland's music scene.

The concert, which is also part of Festival Cairns, will reacquaint locals with singer Christine Anu, who will embark on a major tour with her critically acclaimed *Ladies of Jazz* concert series in October.

It will also introduce visitors to the sound of FNQ which is an amalgam of styles where traditions from the past collide with new musical technologies. With a nod to hip-hop, reggae and traditional 'Ailan' music, the sound is as diverse as the country itself. Fusing soulful island rhythms with modern urban beats the outcome is defined by a driving rhythm section, soaring vocals and seamless harmonies.

Zennith, a five-piece roots reggae act from Kuranda is amassing a dedicated following on the east coast with their electrifying live sets and are tipped to travel overseas following their success at the 2008 Australasian World Music Expo.

Will Kepa usually spends more time behind the mixing console than behind the microphone where his vocal prowess comes into its own. This producer, drummer, bassist, guitarist, songwriter and sound engineer from Torres Strait has a bright future and has already chalked up some impressive production credits. His musical tastes are as varied as his abilities and encompass rock, roots, jazz, folk and traditional island sounds.

King Kadu (aka Ricardo Idagi) is better known in Victoria than in Queensland although the Murray Island artist turned musician hit the headlines recently as winner of the \$50,000 West Australian Indigenous Art Award. Inspired by his ancestors and the recent history of the Torres Strait, King Kadu's performance incorporates authentic Merian music and traditional instruments such as the Warup (a traditional drum) and the Gor (a rattle made of seeds).

Kadu, who lives in Melbourne, often performs with his uncles, whose island melodies contribute to the authenticity of the Murray Island experience. Kadu's music transcends boundaries and incorporates a range of genres including JuJu, Jive and Taybobo.

Apart from the live sessions, Tanks will also be paying tribute to 80-year-old Torres Strait Island legend, Henry 'Seaman' Dan, with tracks from his farewell CD *Sailing Home* being played throughout the evening. Concertgoers will have the opportunity to meet this remarkable musician and community ambassador and share in his passion for the unique music of the Torres Strait.

Tickets to Bippera-Kymel are \$35 per person and \$30 for concessions. Book now through Ticketlink on 1300 855 835 or [www.ticketlink.com.au](http://www.ticketlink.com.au)

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