

Dance Groups

Shine on Gimuy Opening Event is Our calling country ceremony that honours age old practices.

Land Acknowledgement and Calling country are another element of A Welcome to Country - reflective of the old traditional song line practice.

As, sovereign first peoples we have shaped our unceded territories and country , our protocol dictates , we honour our sky, land and waterways created by our ancestors, and acknowledge the gifts of the land we are one and the peoples of that country who have continued ancient obligations

We always sang up country and announced ourselves before entering bordering lands. - In the ancient ways, language groups would travel across their borders and arrive onto the land of neighbouring clans, the visitors would “call-out” to announce themselves to the country and the clan group of that nation or ‘country’. (It was part of the song cycle) in return the custodians of that specific country would ‘call back ” in response to their arrival inviting them to cross into their territories. And the two combined chants would merge with respect and often the gifting would occur.

The Yidinji our host nation lived as a resilient people constantly adapting but now is a time to advance our thriving culture , remembering and remaining true to the eons of oral storytelling, the seasonal behaviours, accepting the obligations , stewardship and responsibilities under tried and tested knowledge structures and kinship systems. For Cairns (Gimuy) the regions seasons have shaped behaviour and gives us our belonging -place and now as we observe environmental and political futures we can reflect on the ancient welcomes and the new dialogue for a future with our youth and those learning language to continue the ancient Songlines.

Tonight you will witness the ancient continuance of intergenerational transmission through story dance and song cycles.

Our official welcome to country is conducted by Aunty Henrietta Marrie AM.

Our dance groups represent the following regions and neighbours.

Minjil dancers are our host nation representing Gimuy

The Yindinji dancers are made up of three groups – the Gimuy Yindinji, The Wanjuru Yindinji and the Dabul Dancers representing the clan groups.

Djabuganydji dancers our neighbours to the west

Gungganydji dancers our neighbours to the East

Yalanji dance group our northern neighbours.

Mabuiag Island dancers representing our saltwater neighbours form the Torres St Islands.

More on our Host Nation Dancers

-Minjil -Cairns cultural group Minjil are our hosts for the calling country event –

<https://www.minjil.com.au/>

Continuing age-old traditions through dance, lore and education. For tonight they highlight the Cassowary totemic ancestors, highlighting the sword and Shield dance . Under the cultural guidance of Carl Fourmile Minjil generously share their unique culture and heritage of the Gimuy/Cairns

Yidinydji homelands in far north Queensland. The dancers are passionate about sharing our culture, that continuously fosters help a greater sense of unity and respect between all people.

Join us on a journey of discovery and connection with the land and people of this beautiful region.