



MARRAR WOORN Neighbourhood House

For Immediate Release 1/09/2020

Music, community and stories under lockdown

Marrar Woorn Neighbourhood House, in association with Matty Orchard Music, Jackson Hayat Films and Show, Don't Tell, present a COVID friendly gig to bring music to the community. Featuring all Apollo Bay home-grown talent and recorded live at the newly refurbished Apollo Bay Seniors Hall. The gig will be freely available online and through Apollo Bay radio 3ABR before the scheduled end of lockdown 2.0. It is a gift to the community at large, something to help soothe the COVID blues.

Featuring Apollo Bay singer songwriters: Ella Summers, Outtatime, Jack Fillmore, Katie Maxwell, Georgia Howell, Seamus Fillmore and Oscar Lalor.

All performers developed their craft at the Apollo Bay P-12 College's 'House of Rock' and all but one had returned home to ride out Victoria's Stage 3 lockdown with their families in August, 2020. Local music producer, educator and musician, Matty Orchard, realised that having them back in town presented an opportunity to showcase their talents. Working with Sally Forrester, Coordinator of the Apollo Bay Neighbourhood House, Marrar Woorn, they devised a COVID friendly online gig with the aim to help reconnect the community through music and stories. Like so many people around the world during these unusual times, they could see that the community was missing music, as well as each other.

One of the musicians featured is Seamus Fillmore, who grew up in Apollo Bay, "I don't think there's a better place in the world to grow up as a young musician than in a little community like Apollo Bay that has so many people who are willing to let you get up on stage and play songs from whatever age."

Also featured in the project is Outtatime, aka Cat Richardson, who shares her COVID lockdown experience, "Having my study, doing live streams and collaborations like this make me really happy and feel like there is a bit of a light at the end of this dreary tunnel."

Sally Forrester explains, "This project is both a celebration of the Apollo Bay musical community and a nod to the difficult time of COVID-19 that we are living through. We want to bring our community together through music and shared experiences, like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. Our community is broad because we are in such a beautiful location. Some of our community live here full time, others part time and many pass through on holidays, but we can all relate."

The main location for the filming was at the Apollo Bay Seniors Centre, that recently had undertaken improvement works with funding from Pick My Project and support from the Colac Otway Shire. The \$200,000 from Pick my Project purchased a multi-media set-up including a 3.7m retractable cinema screen, a laser projector, an audio system including hearing augmentation and equipment for music or speaking events. This funding also saw the purchase of solar panels with back-up battery, new chairs and tables, replacement of windows to double glazing as well as better storage facilities

throughout. The Colac Otway Shire funded the renovations of the bathrooms, meeting rooms and the kitchen as the property is owned by them.

Sally says, "In a world without COVID, we would be launching the upgrades at the Apollo Bay Seniors Hall about now. In a way, this gig is a soft opening of the hall, waiting for a time when we can all enjoy music together again and share in the improvements of this community asset."

The project has had to work around the COVID barriers. It was made under a COVID safe plan, in-line with the Victorian Chief Health Officer's directions, with the approval of local Victorian Police, regional Department of Health and Human Services, Colac Otway Shire and Great Ocean Road Health. Featured musician, Jack Fillmore, was stuck in Melbourne in stage 4 lockdown but could accompany his brother via the new big screen at the hall. Ella Summers, also featured in the project, was forced to record from home when her family went into isolation whilst awaiting COVID test results. Once their tests were clear, she joined the onsite filming. Local videographer Pete Mahwinney, from Show, Don't Tell, was able to support film maker Jackson Hayat, who also hails from Apollo Bay but was in Melbourne at the time. Pete shot 200 gigabytes of footage for Jackson to edit into a one hour snapshot of a music, community and stories under lockdown.

More information about the project is available at www.mwnh.org, with the final release date in the week starting 8th September.

ENDS

More Information:

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