

Wurundjeri Elder joins Billy Tea at Healsville summer festival

As part of the *Sanctuary Summer Festival* at Victoria's Healesville Sanctuary, The Billy Tea Bush Band has teamed up with Wurundjeri Elder, Murrundindi.

As well as performing bush dances and Murrundindi's Welcome to Country and Dreaming Stories during the two weeks of the festival, The Billy Tea duo, Mick and Phil, come together with Murrundindi to play songs like 'I am Australian', speaking in a fresh voice of unification and inclusion to send a powerful message of reconciliation and acceptance which Mick Quarrell says is "perfect for any school presentation."

Murrundindi, the elder or head man (Ngurungaeta) of the Wurundjeri tribe, is the spiritual custodian of the land around



the Melbourne region; his mission is to teach legions of Aussie kids about cultural ways, especially when they visit Healesville Sanctuary.

Murrundindi has an innate connection to the Badger Creek region around the sanctuary – his great-great-uncle is William Barak, the Wurundjeri elder and artist who worked to help create the

self-sufficient Aboriginal farming station Coranderrk, now managed by Healesville Sanctuary.

Murrundindi teaches visitors to Healesville about the plants, animals, food and cultural practices of the Wurundjeri.

"Healesville is a healing ground, that's where my people lived," he says. "If you've got any connection to the land and to the spirit you'll understand it's a healing ground."

"I go home (Tyabb) and play the didgeridoo and I'm not as good as when I get on to Healesville Sanctuary ground – it just hums for me."

<http://billyteabushband.com>

Mick mob 0414 270 224

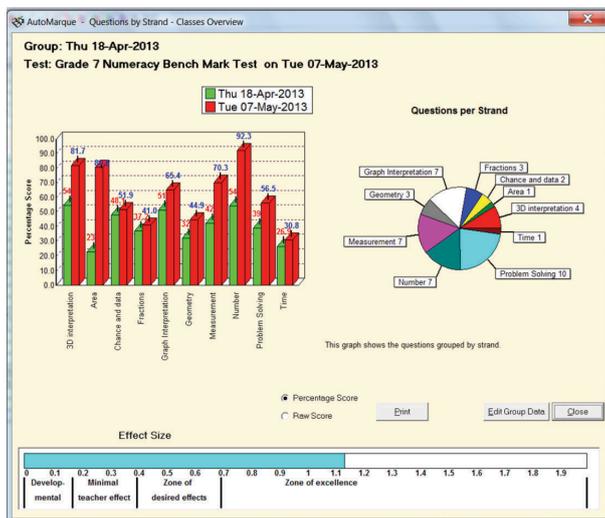
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