

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

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A Decade of Indigenous Prisoners on Radio

Beyond the Bars will give voice to the voiceless from 4 – 8 July 2011 as we celebrate 10 years of Indigenous prisoners on the airwaves during NAIDOC* Week on 3CR 855AM and 3CR Digital.

Men and women from the Indigenous community on the inside will share stories, songs, opinions and poems in this remarkable radio event from within the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Barwon Prison, Fulham Correctional Centre, Marngoneet Correctional Centre, and Port Phillip Prison. 3CR Indigenous broadcasters including Kutcha Edwards, Gilla McGuinness, Shiralee Hood, Freddy Norris, Johnny Mac and others will present the radio shows.

The broadcasts are part of the **Beyond the Bars** project which began in 2002. Now in its tenth year, the project has won several awards including the *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Radio Award* in 2004 and the *Community Broadcasting Association of Australia Contribution to Indigenous Broadcasting* award in 2009. **Beyond the Bars** includes workshops in music and spoken word performance that culminate in live prison radio shows during NAIDOC Week. Highlights of the broadcasts are presented each year in a CD compilation. The highlights CD, **Beyond the Bars 8**, will be launched later this year.

For local singer/songwriter and one of the founders of the project, Kutcha Edwards, the broadcasts are an important way to give voice to Indigenous prisoners: *"It's so important for the men and women from our community to have the chance to speak and be heard – by going into the prisons and broadcasting live we can give them a voice."*

The prison broadcasts are part of a week of Indigenous special programming on 3CR 855AM, 3CR Digital and www.3cr.org.au from 4 – 8 July. The prison programming will be simulcast on 3KnD 1503AM. **Beyond the Bars** receives financial support from Corrections Victoria and the Koori Justice Unit Department of Justice, the City of Melbourne and the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

Photos are available on request – credit Phoebe Barton.

For more information or to organise an interview with Kutcha Edwards contact:

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*National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee

