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Indigenous Prisoners Speak Out!

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Indigenous men and women currently in Victorian prisons will have a public voice during NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Week, 5 - 12 July. 3CR 855AM presents four prison broadcasts as part of a week of on air NAIDOC celebrations.

In the lead up to the live broadcasts, 3CR 855AM is staging spoken word and music workshops in Port Phillip Prison, the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Barwon Prison and Fulham Prison. Local Indigenous community leaders and musicians Gilla McGuinness, Kutcha Edwards, Johnny Mac, Robbie Thorpe and comedian Shiralee Hood from 3CR along with 3KND broadcasters Janina Harding and Kim Kruger are holding the workshops.

The broadcasts and workshops are part of the **Beyond the Bars** project. The award-winning prison broadcasts are unique in Australia and give Indigenous prisoners in Victoria a unique chance to participate with the community during a time of celebration and coming together within Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Highlights of the broadcasts will be being launched as the **Beyond the Bars 6** CD in November this year.

For past participant of the annual **Beyond the Bars** project, Karlene Clarke, who participated in every broadcast from 2002 – 2008, the broadcasts gave her: *"the opportunity to just be heard, to have a voice and be able to be part of the community and family - who I wasn't in contact with because of my incarceration - during NAIDOC week"*.

For workshop leader and comedian Shiralee Hood: *"It is imperative to keep the connection when you're on the inside so that you can feel connected to the community and family outside. **Beyond the Bars** is a great vehicle for expression."*

The prison broadcasts are part of a week of Indigenous special programming on 3CR 855AM and www.3cr.org.au from 6 – 10 July. The prison programming will be simulcast on 3KND 1503AM. **The Beyond the Bars** is funded by the Department of Justice, the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, the City of Melbourne and the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

For more information or to arrange interviews with either Shiralee Hood (Fitzroy) or Karlene Clarke (St Kilda) contact:

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