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Indigenous Prisoners on the Airwaves

Indigenous prisoners in five Victorian correctional facilities will hit the airwaves from 5 – 11 July 2010 as they celebrate NAIDOC* Week on 3CR 855AM.

3CR Indigenous broadcasters including Gilla McGuinness, Shiralee Hood, Freddy Norris, Johnny Mac and others will present the radio shows from within the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Barwon Prison, Fulham Correctional Centre, Marngoneet Correctional Centre, and Port Phillip Prison.

The broadcasts are part of the **Beyond the Bars** project which began in 2002. Now in its ninth year, the project has won several awards including the *Community Broadcasting Association of Australia Contribution to Indigenous Broadcasting* award in 2009. **Beyond the Bars** involves 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 7**, will be launched later this year.

For radio presenter and local comedian Shiralee Hood the broadcasts aim *“to let the people on the inside know that they’re not forgotten.”* The broadcasts also contribute significantly to the *“need to keep our community connected”*, she says.

The prison broadcasts are part of a week of Indigenous special programming on 3CR 855AM and www.3cr.org.au from 5 – 11 July. The prison programming will be simulcast on 3KnD 1503AM. **Beyond the Bars** receives financial support from the City of Melbourne, the Community Broadcasting Foundation, the Department of Justice, and the Neighbourhood Justice Centre.

Photos attached can be published with a credit to photographer Jacqui Brown.

For more information or to organise an interview contact:

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*National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee

