



## **MEDIA RELEASE: MANNALARGENNA DAY FESTIVAL 2024**

The Board of Directors and Circle of Elders of Melythina Tiakana Warrana (Heart of Country) Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) are pleased to announce the 10th anniversary Mannalargenna Day Festival on Saturday 7 December 2024 at Tebrakunna (Little Musselroe Bay/Cape Portland).

Mannalargenna was an important leader of the Pairrebeenne/Trawlwoolway clan of the Coastal Plains nation. He was revered for having power over the wind. As an important leader of his clan, Mannalargenna played a negotiator role with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to relocate to Wybalenna, on a promise by George Augustus Robinson that they would one day be able to safely return to their clan lands. Robinson broke his promise and as a symbol of this betrayal Mannalargenna cut off his long ochred hair and beard. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1835 Mannalargenna died, at Wybalenna on Flinders Island.

Since 2015, on the first Saturday in December each year the descendants of Mannalargenna meet on clan country to celebrate his life, the life of our ancestral grandmothers and our continuing Aboriginal culture. In the spirit of reconciliation this celebration is a public event and all are welcome.

The event is open to the public from 9am to 5.30pm and is a family friendly drug and alcohol free event. There will be an official opening and flag raising including a Welcome to Country. There will be ochre and smoking ceremonies as well as a dance by Treenoner Dance Group.

Her Excellency the Hon Barbara Baker as the Patron of Mannalargenna Day Festival will open the ceremony with an official address

This year there will be a forum facilitated by Professor Greg Lehman titled **Endangered Species – Raptors & Cider Gums** in conversation with Chris Sims (Woolnorth Wind) and Russell McKane of Poatina.

As a special treat in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival, live music will be available in the main marquee with Henry Rippon, Kiz&Hermit, Hudson O'Neil, Ged Watts, Madelena and special guest, Shane Howard.

Other activities include a guided walk and talk on country with the Tebrakunna Trainee Rangers, language yarning circle with Zac Cameron, children's activities including sand castle making and stingray puppetry making, and serpentarium shows.

There will be men's, women's and mixed circles where people can take part in cultural experiences using natural fibres and resources. In the men's circle participants will have the opportunity to make spears and later in the day take part in the spear throwing competition.

There will be a silent auction on a number of paintings and other cultural treasures and these items can be viewed, and bids received, on the MTWAC Facebook page or in person on the day. As with every year, we have a number of raffle prizes kindly donated by various supporters of the event.

Taster plates of cultural food will be available, along with some salad items and fruit. We ask that all participants consider bringing their own extra food items as the plates will be taster size portions and the event does not cater for special dietary requirements. We will also have Coffee Got Soul coffee van joining us again, who will be selling refreshments.

We ask that people respect social distancing at the event and do not attend the event if they are experiencing any COVID or cold/flu symptoms or are feeling unwell. Please bring suitable clothing and protection for any weather as conditions can change rapidly at this location.

MTWAC would like to acknowledge that this event occurs with the support and in conjunction with Woolnorth Renewables. We thank them for their ongoing support and generosity towards our Mannalargenna Day Festival. We acknowledge the amazing support of over 70 volunteers who give so much of their time for this important celebration. We acknowledge the generosity of businesses, families and individuals who contribute as donors and sponsors of Mannalargenna Day Festival. MTWAC would also like to thank the Tasmanian Government, Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation Tasmania, NRM North, City of Launceston Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Dorset Council, Break O'Day Council, NBN, Timberlands Pacific, Banjos, Tas Farm Innovation Hub, Unique Charters, Mantra Hotel Resorts Apartments, Peppers Sil Hotel Launceston, Peppers Seaport Hotel Launceston, The Trig on Mt Arthur for their contributions towards our special event.



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