

MEDIA RELEASE

**‘WOONJEEGARIBAY’ ABORIGINAL FILM FESTIVAL
EMPIRE THEATRE, BOWRAL
FRIDAY, 23 MAY, 2008**

‘This isn’t about Sorry Day, we’ve moved on from that!’
‘This is about working together down here, as a community. It doesn’t happen like this in other areas!’

So says Aunty Val Mulcahy: Aboriginal elder; descendant of the local ‘Gundungurra’ tribe; tireless community worker, and source of inspiration for the third annual ‘Woonjeegaribay’ Aboriginal Film Festival, to be held at the Empire Theatre in Bowral, on Friday, 23rd May.

The original Festival date was chosen to mark the release of the ‘Sorry’ report in May, 1997 but, according to Aunty Val, the Festival has become more than that now. To Aunty Val the Festival has become more of a celebration of how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people within a community are able to working together productively. She is particularly proud of the fact that this Film Festival receives minimal funding – and relies on ticket sales from year-to-year to survive.

This year’s Festival, says Aunty Val, already has all the makings of ‘a beautiful thing’. Students from Thomas Aquinas Primary School in Bowral will open the Festival with their own locally written ‘Sorry Song’, as sung to Aunty Val earlier this year on Sorry Day.

‘As soon as I heard it, I liked it and knew it should open the Film Festival’.

‘Bring your hankies!’ she warns.

TED KENNEDY ABORIGINAL FUND

The Woonjeegaribay Aboriginal Film Festival serves as the main annual fundraiser for the Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund.

The Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund was set up to support the Aboriginal population of the Wingecarribee Shire through a small grants program that targets cultural and educational advancement of the local Aboriginal population. Past awards have been used to support local Aboriginal initiatives - and to support young Aboriginal men and women.

THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM FRIDAY, 23RD MAY

The Festival will commence earlier in the day with its annual 'Schools Program' of short films made by Aboriginal filmmakers. This very popular program is offered to school children ranging in age from early primary to upper secondary with this year's attendance expected to exceed 1,000.

Entrance is by a gold coin, and proceeds go to the Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund.

EVENING FESTIVAL

The adult program begins at 6.30 pm with refreshments in the foyer of Bowral's own cinema gem, the Empire Theatre.

The Ted Kennedy Aboriginal fund awards will be followed by a program of shorts, and a feature film.

The Festival aims to showcase the talent of emerging Aboriginal filmmakers and to foster an understanding of the Aboriginal viewpoint – and towards this end, all film content is by Aboriginal filmmakers and actors.

TICKETS

Tickets to the evening Festival cost \$20 (incl refreshments) and will be available from the Empire Cinema in Bowral.

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Media contacts/interviewees:

More information is available from the following Festival Committee members who may be contacted directly:

Woonjeegaribay Film Festival Overview:

Aunty Val Mulcahy is available for interview
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Ted Kennedy Aboriginal Fund:

For more information on the Ted Kennedy Fund and the small grants awards program:

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