

20 May**Cockatoo Island commemorates National Reconciliation Week 2019**

On 1 June for one afternoon only, Sunset Sessions at Cockatoo Island presents a special live music event recognising National Reconciliation Week 2019. Featuring the musical talents of First Nations artists Evie J Willie and Thaylia, this special instalment of our popular live music program is the perfect primer to Vivid, Sydney.

Following outstanding performances during the sunset sessions sold out summer season, the Harbour Trust presents a First Nations line-up of artists who bring with them smooth tunes and soulful melodies.

A sunset session special, live music for National Reconciliation Week kicks off with a traditional smoking ceremony on the Eastern Apron of Cockatoo Island. Evie J Willie and Thaylia, both with years of experience in their unique craft, then light up the Naval Store of Cockatoo Island from 4pm.

Adding to the ambience of afternoon tunes, Cockatoo Island's stunning picture perfect views and option to stay overnight is the icing on top of a perfect winter weekend.

National Reconciliation Week is one of many First Nation initiatives recognised by the Harbour Trust. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

About the artists**Thaylia**

Darwin-born Thaylia is an electronic folk singer, songwriter and producer based in Sydney. She is of Greek/Aboriginal heritage and spent her childhood in the red dusty plains of Kununurra – a small outback town in far north Kimberley region of Western Australia. Growing up, she never had any music lessons and it wasn't until the age of 23 when she discovered her passion of music and picked up an instrument for the very first time. In 2012, she quit her high paying corporate job and sold her house in order to pursue her career in music full time. Her latest single, 'Waiting', received air time on FBI, 4ZZZ and other radio stations around Australia.

Evie J Willie

Evie J is a proud Indigenous Singer/Songwriter who has been composing songs since the age of 15. Born in Toowoomba (QLD) and raised on an Aboriginal Reserve in Wellington (Western NSW), she is passionate about empowering young girls and women.

Harbour Trust

Since moving to Sydney, Evie J has used her music to express and establish herself as a strong contemporary Indigenous Female Artist. Drawing on her Aboriginal and NiVanuatu roots, Evie J's songs tackle real life experiences, truth, identity and culture. Her warm nature, powerful resonance and undeniable talent shines through in her music, which ranges from Roots and Reggae through to Blues and Acoustic Soul.

- ends -

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Please contact Rebecca Hage at the Harbour Trust on (02) 8969 2143 or 0419 788 937 or Rebecca.Hage@harbourtrust.gov.au