



WALKING WITH SPIRITS – Saturday 31 July 2010

A truly unique Australian experience is proudly presented by Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Shakespeare Company.

Having completed its eighth amazing year in August 2009, this event offers you the exclusive chance to experience the ancient Aboriginal tradition of Corroboree while enjoying the stunning beauty of Malkgulumbu (Beswick Falls), a sacred site not normally accessible to the general public.

WALKING WITH SPIRITS is Beswick Community's annual celebration of their culture and heritage. Using fire, puppetry, images and music to reinterpret the concepts within the traditional dances, **WALKING WITH SPIRITS** presents corroborees from a variety of Arnhem Land language groups. Visitors are invited to camp for the weekend in this spectacular lakeside setting, open to the public only once a year for this event.

DATES: Beswick Falls open from 12 noon, Saturday 31 July. Camping will be available for Saturday and Sunday evening with guests required to pack up and leave by Monday morning. The performances start at sunset (approx. 6.30pm) on Saturday night and last up to three hours.

PRICES: adults \$85, concession \$60, children (5-15yrs) \$35, shuttle bus return tickets \$50
Booking fee may apply

BOOK TICKETS:

www.shakespeareaustralia.com.au or call 1300 122 344

www.darwinentertainment.com.au or call 08 8980 3308

GETTING THERE: Beswick Community is located 107km south-east of Katherine – drive south on the Stuart Highway for 51km, turn left into the Central Arnhem Road and drive 56km to Beswick Community. Follow the signs to the Ghunmarn Cultural Centre (the red two storey building) to receive your pass to then go on to Beswick Falls. The road to Beswick is sealed bitumen all the way. The road to Beswick Falls (approx 20km) is a dirt road and 4WD vehicles are recommended for this leg as the road is prone to sand and bull dust bogs. Please note, while we make every effort to water and grade the dirt road, this is not normally a public access road and it gets very dusty under heavy traffic. We recommend you seal any cameras or other equipment in plastic to protect from dust.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE: If you do not have a 4WD, you can leave your vehicle at the Culture Centre and wait for the 4WD shuttle to the falls. The shuttle will leave at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm on Saturday. Seats are limited so pre-purchasing tickets is essential. Shuttle bus tickets are \$50 return and are booked by online at www.shakespeareaustralia.com.au or call 1300 122 344. The return journey begins from 12pm on Sunday and can be booked when you arrive at Beswick Falls. Please note there is no shuttle service on Saturday evening after the performance or on Monday morning.

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ENTRY INTO ABORIGINAL LAND: Malkgulumbu is on the Beswick Aboriginal Land Trust and its traditional owners are the Jawoyn people. Permits are normally required but are WAIVED FOR THIS EVENT ONLY. Please respect this area and the people who belong to it.

ALCOHOL: Alcohol is not permitted at all. Please note that sections of the road to Beswick and the community itself operate under specific liquor laws and the police can impound your vehicle if alcohol is found and you may be fined. Please respect the wishes of the community and do not bring alcohol to the event.

CAMPING: Campers must be self-sufficient. This is a wilderness location with no camping amenities. Bush toilets will be provided, but please bring drinking water, camping and fishing gear, food, insect repellent and sun protection. First aid and ambulance will be available on site. There is a health clinic at Beswick Community and the nearest hospital is in Katherine. You are welcome to swim and walk in the area. Please take all your rubbish with you.

ACCOMMODATION: If you do not intend to camp at Beswick Falls we recommend booking accommodation in either Katherine or Mataranka. Please note, Beswick Community does not offer tourist accommodation facilities.

REFRESHMENTS: Basic BBQ refreshments are available (cash only) on Saturday evening for the performance. You will need to bring all other food and drinks.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photography or audio visual recording of any kind is not permitted during the performances on Saturday night.

ORIGINAL ARTWORK: Original paintings, baskets, didgeridoos, mats and other indigenous fine art will be available for sale at the Beswick Community Cultural Centre. Prices range from \$25 to \$500 and credit card facilities are available.

20 GREAT EVENTS TO GET YOU ON THE ROAD - The Sunday Age Explore Magazine

“We walk through the rustle of the paperbarks and settle by campfires.

With the moon rising over the sandstone ridge and shadows of the Aboriginal songmen and dancers flickering all around, we are on a journey older than any of us, one that began in the age of the Ancestors.

The Walking with Spirits festival is held each year at the end of July or early August at Malkgulumbu, a waterfall and sacred site on the land of the Jawoyn people, near the remote community of Wugularr, about 100 kilometres south of Katherine.

On a night like this, camped with my family and our Aboriginal friends, is where I love to be. It is a place of unforgettable beauty and tranquillity, with a deep sense of what is shared and how the land shapes us all.

Djilpin Arts, the creative company led by Aboriginal musician and actor Tom Lewis, and supported by the Australian Shakespeare Company, blends music, dance, puppetry, animation, short films, and burning 3D images blazing against the night sky.”

Jeff McMullen - Journalist, Filmmaker and Author