

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL MARCH 13-22 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Legend Archie Roach appearing at Castlemaine State Festival March 2015 *Castlemaine, 23rd January, 2015*

Following the launch of the 40-year anniversary program of the Castlemaine State Festival, the festival is pleased to announce the exciting addition to the program of beloved Australian legend and singer-songwriter Archie Roach. Archie will join a diverse showcase of artists for *Gurrong*, a choral exploration of 250 years of immigration.

With over 80 voices including Archie Roach, singer-songwriter and guitarist, Shane Howard, Senegalese singer/dancer and charismatic front man of The African Intelligence, Lamine Sonko, and the Castlemaine chapter of the Melbourne Millennium Chorus, the ambitious choral performance *Gurrong* will be staged at the Castlemaine Town Hall for one night only, Saturday 21 March 2015.

Directors and choral leaders Jane Thompson and James Rigby have created an emotional and profoundly moving work that explores the sea of lives and stories afloat on this burnt red island of Australia. Merging tales of aspiration, sorrow and relentless human resilience with millennia-old stories, ideas and music, the bold work draws on the multitude of human experiences that infuse this ancient land.

Archie Roach is beloved with Australian audiences for his remarkably moving and revealing musical storytelling and as a member of the Stolen Generation he has become a powerful voice for indigenous Australians. Widely regarded as a gifted Australian artist with a unique and compelling voice, he has toured widely around Australia and abroad and with artists including Paul Kelly, Crowded House, Billy Bragg, Patti Smith and many more. The Castlemaine State Festival is pleased to welcome him for this 40-year anniversary program of over 50 events. With at least 40 artists coming from overseas and an exciting array of local talent, the festival is proud to announce *Gurrong* as one of the highlights of the 2015 program.

Details:

***Gurrong* by the Castlemaine Millennium Chorus and Band, Archie Roach, Shane Howard, Lamine Sonko and other feature artists**

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm

Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Admission \$30 Full/ \$25 Concession

For bookings please visit castlemainefestival.com.au