MEDIA RELEASE

September 11, 2024

Grand Finale of the Yila Healing Trail

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Grounds, Ulladulla Civic Centre

What does an entire community raising their voices in support of Country sound like?
Join us for the Grand Finale of the Yila Healing Trail as we celebrate nature, stewardship, connection, and a shared commitment to the well-being and healing of the Shoalhaven lands, seas and people. Having started in Nowra, and spanned the Shoalhaven with over 100 events, we now come together to close out this incredible journey on the grass outside the Ulladulla Civic Centre.

Picnic for Nature
This annual event, hosted by the Nature Conservation Council brings their membership of over 200 nature steward groups from across NSW outside with their picnic baskets to celebrate Nature. Today we bring local chapters of these groups together. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic rug, food, and drink to join us in this beautiful, sunlit space for a nourishing day that highlights our young people's vital role in reconnection to nature.

Voices of Our Future
One of the highlights of this event is the Clap-Stick Orchestra. Over 500 students who have been gifted traditional clapsticks, crafted by Michael Robinson from Doolagartefacts and Gumaraa will be singing it up. Under the guidance of Uncle Joe and Ronald McLeod, these students have learned the traditional song "Yila" and will come together to share this song and its healing meaning with all of us.

Event Highlights
- Welcome to Country by Uncle Phil Butler, a Yuin man and Aboriginal Education Officer at St Mary's School, Milton.
- Carolyn Loton, Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council, will host this chapter of Picnic for Nature, a statewide NSW event acknowledging the importance of young voices in building a nature-centric world.

- Students from Shoalhaven Community Preschool, Sussex Inlet School, the Shoalhaven home-schooling community, and Ulladulla High School, will take the stage as the Voices of Country.
- The Grand Finale features the Clapstick Orchestra singing "Yila", bringing together the energy of the Yila Healing Trail in one powerful moment.

After the official ceremony, the event will move into a relaxed picnic, with live music from Hein Cooper, including his soulful rendition of *Nature Boy*. As we gather, ringed by nature conservation groups, the event will emphasise the strength of community and our shared responsibility to be the voice for the precious lands and waters of the Shoalhaven.

Celebrate with Us
This is more than just an event; it's a celebration of the powerful connection between people, culture, and nature. We invite everyone—participants of the Yila Healing Trail, schoolchildren and their families, local partners, and visitors—to join us in this joyful and meaningful finale.

For more information and bookings, visit us HERE
For media resources, including the song of Yila visit HERE

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