



**Media Release**

**14 January 2025**

## **Margaret River Vintage 2025 Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony**

The Margaret River Wine Association (MRWA) warmly invites the community and visiting workers to a special **Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony** to celebrate the start of **Vintage 2025** on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater Country). This cultural event will be led by local custodians Dr. Wayne Webb and Iszaak Webb.

The traditional smoking ceremony cleanses and purifies the spirit, body and soul while marking the beginning of something new. It's a meaningful way to honour the season and an exciting time for the Margaret River wine industry as seasonal workers arrive, and preparations for the harvest begin.

MRWA CEO Amanda Whiteland said, "Having the Undalup Association offering this beautiful cultural ceremony to welcome workers to our community and celebrate the start of vintage is truly special. It enriches our cultural knowledge and fosters meaningful connections, and we can't thank them enough."

The event, now in its third year of growth and celebration, will be introduced by Myles Pollard, an accomplished actor, writer, director, and producer with more than two decades of experience in Australian film and television.

The evening will feature live music by local musician Dan White, as well as traditional dance and song by visiting workers from Timor Leste, Fiji and Tonga.

The event is free of charge and will take place at **Pioneer Park Amphitheatre, Cowaramup, from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, Thursday 30 January 2025**. Attendees should bring a picnic chair or blanket.

International workers are encouraged to bring a flag or wear a traditional clothing from their home country to showcase the rich multicultural spirit of the vintage workforce in the Margaret River Wine Region.

This year's event is organised by the Margaret River Wine Association and supported by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, TeamsWork (formerly SW Labour Solutions) and Undalup Association.

Jobseekers looking to join the Margaret River Wine Region workforce can find information at [www.margaretriver.wine/work](http://www.margaretriver.wine/work)

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### Downloads

2023 event images [here](#)

2024 event images [here](#)

Event flyer [here](#)

### Myles Pollard Bio:

Myles has appeared in numerous popular television series, including *All Saints*, *Macleod's Daughters*, *Packed to the Rafters*, and *Underbelly*. His impressive film credits include *Wolverine*, *The Turning*, *Looking for Grace*, *Jasper Jones*, *The Gateway*, and *Drift*—a feature film he also produced. In addition to his acting career, Myles made his directorial debut with the award-winning short film *Payne's Find*.

### Dan White Bio:

A passionate advocate for WA music, Dan brings over 20 years in the music and entertainment industry and has built an impressive career as a songwriter, performer, producer, and tour manager. With more than 2,000 live shows and 70+ releases under his belt, Dan has shared stages with renowned acts like *Xavier Rudd*, *The Cat Empire*, *The Teskey Brothers*, *San Cisco* and *Ash Grunwald*. Currently, he performs with local Margaret River-based acts Brightsider and Moon & Honey, while also delivering solo performances and DJing throughout the South West.

### For further information, please contact:

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*Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja, we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (talks) of the season, and leave nothing but footprints.*

- Pibulmun Wadandi Yunungjarli Elder Wayne Webb