



Media Release

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Margaret River Welcomes PALM & Seasonal Workers with Vibrant Cultural Celebration

Margaret River, WA: The magic of Margaret River's harvest was celebrated last week with a vibrant fusion of cultures at the third—and most extraordinary—Vintage Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater Country).

Local custodians Dr Wayne Webb, Iszac Webb, and their family led a Welcome to Country for hundreds of Margaret River locals and travelling wine workers, followed by a traditional smoking ceremony. This sacred ritual cleanses the spirit, body, and soul, marking the beginning of something new—a meaningful welcome for seasonal workers and the start of Margaret River's 2025 vintage.

Introduced by acclaimed actor Myles Pollard, the evening was further enlivened by the energetic songs and dances of visiting workers from Timor Leste, Fiji, and Tonga, adding a powerful cultural dimension to the event.

"This event has grown into something truly special for our community," said Amanda Whiteland, CEO of the Margaret River Wine Association. "The Vintage Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony not only acknowledges the deep connection to Wadandi Boodja but also celebrates the incredible diversity of the people who contribute to our region's world-class wine industry. I thank our event partners—the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, TeamsWork, and the Undalup Association—for making this special community gathering possible."

Reflecting on the event, Shire of Augusta Margaret River Chief Executive Officer Andrea Selvey said, *"This event was an uplifting and unique celebration of our diverse community. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is thrilled to be able to support the event, and it was a privilege to share in the celebrations. Congratulations and thanks to the Margaret River Wine Association."*

"TeamsWork is very proud to be associated with this life-affirming event," said David Cooper, Managing Director of TeamsWork. "This celebration provides a unique opportunity for PALM workers from Timor-Leste, Fiji, and Tonga to share their vibrant cultures with the local community. Year after year, these hardworking teams make an invaluable contribution to the Margaret River wine industry, and this event beautifully showcased the deep connections they have forged within our region. Congratulations to the incredible MRWA team for their dedication in bringing this event to life."

- ENDS -

Downloads

2025 event images [here](#) (Credit: Ovis Creative)

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.

About the Margaret River Wine Association:

The Margaret River Wine Association represents and supports the region's wine industry by promoting sustainability, regional excellence, and collaboration. Through strategic initiatives, events, and advocacy, the MRWA helps elevate the global profile of Margaret River wines.

For media inquiries, interviews, or further details, please contact:

Amanda Whiteland, CEO

Margaret River Wine Association

Email: amanda@margaretriver.wine

Phone: +61 417 948 736

Website: www.margaretriver.wine

Jobseekers looking to join the Margaret River Wine Region workforce can find information at www.margaretriver.wine/work



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