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ABC special coverage as Garma Festival turns 20

In a special year for the Garma Festival – its 20th anniversary – the ABC is proud to again participate in this iconic event as Official Media Partner, as well as presenting a special programming slate to Australians nationally. The ABC will also assist NITV with its coverage.

2018 Garma will be held from 3-6 August at Gulkula in North-East Arnhem Land. This year's theme is Yuwalk Lakaraṅa – or truth-telling.

ABC Managing Director Michelle Guthrie said: “Garma takes pride of place on the ABC's national calendar of events. The annual festival is a major celebration of Indigenous culture and conversations and the ABC is proud to play a role in ensuring its success.

“The ABC broadcasts live from one of most culturally significant gatherings in Australia so that the message of Garma – this year Yuwalk Lakaraṅa – travels far beyond the sacred Yolngu site.

“We have renewed our commitment to Garma this year not only because it brings Indigenous Australians together to talk frankly with each other, but because it helps focus attention on the issues most relevant to Indigenous communities.”

This year for the first time we take our content making skills into the community, hosting the ABC Digital Storytelling Workshop at the Garma Youth Forum. ABC content makers will teach young Australians how to tell the stories that matter to them and how they can have an impact on the world through storytelling, newsmaking and filmmaking.

The workshop will be delivered by a team of Indigenous ABC content makers – Shahni Wellington (ABC Darwin), Molly Hunt (ABC Kimberley), Dan Bouchier (ABC Canberra) and Jack Evans (Behind the News presenter), with support from ABC Director of Entertainment and Specialist David Anderson, Indigenous Strategies Project Officer Tahnee Jash and BTN's Emma Davis.

The ABC's comprehensive news and current affairs coverage across broadcast and online will include special reporting by National Indigenous Affairs Correspondent Bridget Brennan and producer Isabella Higgins.

Special programming highlights include musician and ABC Radio presenter Christine Anu hosting a national radio program from Garma from 9-10am on Sunday 5 August. This will be broadcast on ABC Local Radio and to international audiences via ABC Radio Australia.



Patricia Karvelas returns to Garma to present her afternoon radio program RN Drive and Sunday evening ABC NEWS channel program National Wrap, bringing insightful analysis of Indigenous policy issues and lively debates around reconciliation and reform.

Julia Baird and The Drum team are at Garma for the first time this year, inviting onto the program a panel of high profile Indigenous leaders.

A special collection of Garma Festival programming will be available on-demand on iView.

For more information:

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