

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARKAA TO HEADLINE BLAK NITE AT CARCLEW IN A POWERFUL CELEBRATION OF FIRST NATIONS MUSIC, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

One of Australia's most compelling First Nations voices, **BARKAA**, will headline **BLAK NITE** at Carclew on **Friday 1 May 2026**, transforming the historic North Adelaide grounds into a vibrant celebration of First Nations music, performance, storytelling and community.

Returning as one of Carclew's most iconic First Nations events, BLAK NITE is a one-night festival that brings together established and emerging First Nations artists, creating a powerful platform for music, dance, visual art and cultural exchange. Designed as an experience for families, young people and community audiences, the event will unfold across Carclew's indoor and outdoor spaces with live performances, hands-on workshops, roaming activations, food trucks, market stalls and art-making throughout the evening.

At a time when Australia's music scene continues to be shaped by bold new voices, BARKAA stands at the forefront. The Malyangapa, Barkindji artist first emerged in 2020 with an uncompromising artistic vision and fearless storytelling voice that immediately shifted the conversation in Australian hip hop. Early tracks including For My Tittas and the nationally resonant Our Lives Matter established her as a force whose work balances raw passion, political power and sharp lyrical precision.

Her acclaimed debut EP Blak Matriarchy (2022) earned two ARIA nominations and a National Indigenous Music Award, with support from triple j, Red Bull, Acclaim and the FBi SMAC Awards. In 2024, BARKAA's momentum reached new heights with the release of Big Tidda, a sold-out Sydney Opera House performance for VIVID, a national tour, multiple major awards, and an ARIA nomination for Best Live Act. She opened 2025 performing to crowds of up to 90,000, cementing her place as one of the most formidable live performers in Australian music.

Beyond BARKAA's headline set, the evening will feature an exciting lineup of Nathan May & Band, Cringetrender, Katie Aspel, Sandy Abbott, DJ SVVLO, WAYIN:THI Dance Collective, and Carclew's own Gig Rig Tracks Youth, creating a dynamic multi-artform celebration of First Nations creativity.

Across the grounds, audiences can move through a festival of family-friendly experiences, involving activations with Patch Theatre's Light n' Glow tents, jewellery making with Haus of Dizzy, collaborative Posca wall and painting workshop with Shane

Cook, roaming native animals with Animals Anonymous and live broadcasting by Port Augusta's Umeewarra Radio, connecting regional voices directly into the celebration.

Blak Nite continues Carclew's commitment to nurturing the next generation of First Nations creatives through Gig Rig Tracks, the organisation's regional music and performance initiative delivered across Whyalla, Port Augusta, APY Lands and Ceduna. Emerging artists connected to the program will perform alongside established names, creating real pathways into live performance, confidence building and industry connection.

Carclew's **First Nations Programs Manager, Thomas Readett** said the event continues to create space for First Nations artists, families and communities to come together through music, visual art, dance and shared cultural experience.

"BLAK NITE celebrates the strength and diversity of First Nations creativity while developing meaningful opportunities for young artists to step onto major stages, connect with community and build pathways into the future."

BLAK NITE is produced by Carclew in partnership with Indigenous Languages and Arts Australia and Create SA, supported by Balya Productions.

BLAK NITE EVENT DETAILS

Date: Friday 1 May 2026

Time: 4.30pm to 9.30pm

Location: Carclew, 11 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide

Ticket: via Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/blak-nite>

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Carclew's Media Contact: Marya Khan, Sr Manager Marketing & Development, Ph: 0450637763

Carclew's First Nations Contact: Thomas Readett treadett@carclew.org.au Ph: 0882301122

Social media tags: @carclew @ausgovarts @createsa @balyaproductions