

# NEIL MURRAY

one of Australia's finest Singer/Songwriters



*Neil Murray's life and work will remain relevant while ever Australians ask the question*

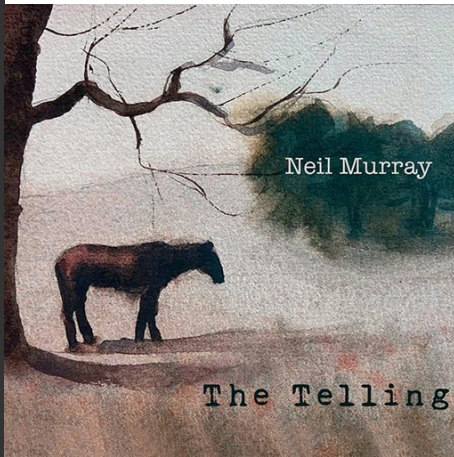
*- what in truth does it mean to call Australia home? - Martin Flanagan, The Age*

*One of the finest songwriters this country has ever produced. - Rhythms*

*Neil Murray sings from the heart of the country. - Jim Mognie (Midnight Oil)*

*There's no shortage of substance or integrity in his songs. - The Australian*

*Stand to be converted. - Australian Musician*



Maverick songman **Neil Murray** originally sprang from Victoria's western district, but in the late 1970s, with guitar in he set course for the Northern Territory. He emerged at Papunya in 1980 as a founding member of the pioneering **Warumpi Band**, which over three albums (*Big Name No Blankets, Go Bush and Too Much Humbug*) and 20 years of performing, thrust contemporary indigenous music into mainstream Australia. Yielding such classic songs as **My Island Home, Blackfella Whitefella, Fitzroy Crossing, Jailanguru Pakarnu, Stompin Ground, From The Bush and Waru.**

He has since become one of Australia's finest singer/songwriters, enjoying a solo career since 1989. He has released a remarkable string of albums - the latest being **The Telling**, which marks a recording career of four decades.

His song writing is diverse- from the rollicking **Good Light in Broome**, the prayerful **Native Born**, and healing **Myall Creek**, the roots groove of **Long Grass Band** and **Eddie Mabo**, the journeyman monologues of **Lights of Hay** and **Whispering Casuarina**, the contemplation of place in **Burrumbeep Hill, Bring Thunder & Rain** and **Fine Open Country** (with Sammy Butcher) to the current singles **Broken Land** and **Tears of Wybalena**.

Collectively, his works have done much to deepen Australia's contemporary music heritage.



Photo by David Nicholson

In 1995, **Neil Murray** was awarded the APRA song of the year for **My Island Home** originally written for the Warumpi Band and re-recorded by Christine Anu. **My Island Home** featured in the closing ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the opening ceremony of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

In 2007, **Jailanguru Pakarnu** (Out From Jail), the Warumpi Band's debut 1983 single, which was co-written with guitarist Sammy Butcher in the indigenous **Luritja** language- was honoured by the **National Film And Sound Archives**- "Sounds Of Australia" series- as a significant recording in Australia's heritage (credited as the first commercially released pop rock single in an indigenous language). In 2016, **My Island Home**, as recorded by Christine Anu, received the same honour.

In recognition of his influence, **Neil Murray** was awarded the **2017 Port Fairy Folk Festival Artist of the Year**.

Neil Murray's songs have been recorded by Mary Black, Jimmy Little, Missy Higgins, Liz Stringer, Christine Anu, Peter Denahy, Carus, Adam Brand, Amy Saunders, Powderfinger, The Tiddas, Ursula Yovich, Peter Brandy, Emma Donovan, Liam Gerner and the Warumpi Band.

Released in April 2023, **The Telling** is his tenth original solo album, with **Tears of Wybalena** the current single.

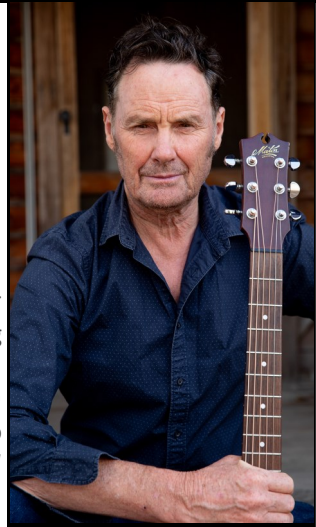
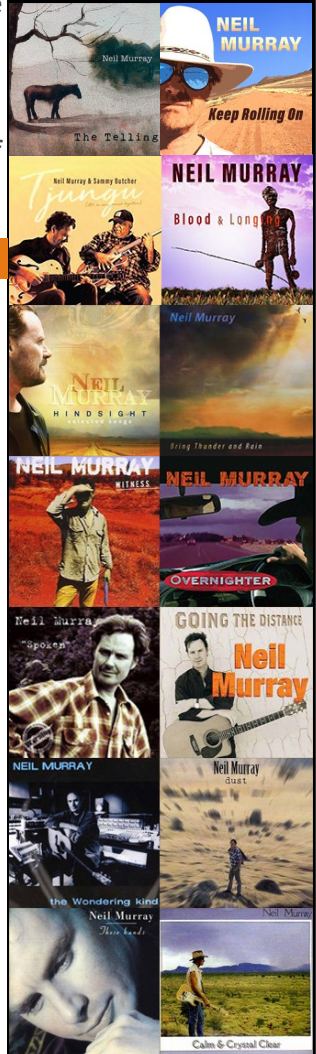


Photo by Nathan Kelly



BOOKINGS : [island.home.music@bigpond.com](mailto:island.home.music@bigpond.com)

Broken Land : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yp8ohzsdYOE>

The Telling : [music.apple.com/au/album/the-telling/167251070](https://music.apple.com/au/album/the-telling/167251070)

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