

Media release: 10th January, 2010

***Neil Murray releases and launches his new album
'Witness' on 26th February, 2010.***

Witness: "At a basic level, everything I write is a result of what I've seen, heard and felt. I aim to be clear. I aim to be accurate. The songs are my testimony."

Neil Murray first appeared in the early eighties as a founding member of the Warumpi Band, which over three albums and twenty years of performing helped make contemporary indigenous music heard in mainstream Australia and yielded such classic songs as 'Blackfella Whitefella' and "My Island Home"-(the 1995 APRA song of the year that was performed by Christine Anu at the closing ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics).

He is one of Australia's most original and respected songwriters and has enjoyed a solo career since 1989 which has seen him release ten albums. His song writing palette is broad- from the rollicking 'Good Light in Broome', the prayerful 'Native Born', the busking roots of 'Long Grass Band' and the journeyman monologue 'Lights of Hay.' Collectively his work describes an inner landscape to the heart and soul of Australia.

Long time friend and founding Midnight Oil member Jim Moginie was enlisted to help produce
Witness:

"I respect Jim's judgement. He's played on a lot of my records now and it was just easy. He had a studio and we just picked out the songs and went for it. A bonus was "One of those tunes"(track 2) – our first co-write. It taps the dilemma of trying to remain true to one's self yet still give audiences what they want.

In 2005 Neil Murray received an environmental achievement award by the Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority in Western Victoria for his efforts in instigating 'Healing Walks' along watercourses in the region and for being the inspiration behind establishment of the annual Lake Bolac Eel Festival.

"Burning Land" (track 1) is the impact of Feb 7th 2009. I was not in the fires. But I've never seen such an apocalyptic day. I was out in the western district and I was shocked at the ferocity of the weather. Something was definitely amiss. You could sense something bad was gonna happen.

In 2007, Jailanguru Pakarnu (Out From Jail), a song co-written in the indigenous *Luritja* language with fellow Warumpi Band founder Sammy Butcher was honored by the National Film And Sound Archives "Sounds Of Australia" series as a significant recording in Australia's musical heritage.

"I've sought a deeper belonging in this country. And for me, the way to do that was learn from Indigenous people. That experience, that feeling, still informs me- it comes out in songs like Burrumbeep Hill (Track 3) and Far Out West (track 9)"

Neil Murray performs regularly at festivals and live music venues in Australia and overseas. In the last few years he has made two trips to the US.

"I once knew a woman", (track 5)" Remembering 9/11"(track 8) and "Country star" (track 10) are the result of some travel and co-writing in the US. Our mainstream culture is fascinated by America. So I went there to have a look. Took the mystery out of it.

Neil Murray will launch his 10th solo offering *'Witness'* at the East Brunswick Club on February 5th. With a full band behind him, be prepared for an extended ride into the nether regions picking off shots from a repertoire that stretches back three decades plus a showcase of cuts from his forthcoming new album *'Witness'* released on 26th February.

Neil Murray *'Witness'* tour dates:

VICTORIA

17th January – Martians Café, Deans Marsh
5th February – East Brunswick Club, East Brunswick
6th February – Oakleigh Bowling Club, Oakleigh
12th February – Palais, Hepburn Springs
13th February – Mt Rouse Music Festival, Peshurst
25th March – Wander Inn, Wartook
27th March – Lake Bolac Eel Festival
9th April – Harvester Moon, Bellarine

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

22nd April – Clancy's Fish Pub, Freemantle
23rd April – Quindanning Hotel, Quindanning
24th April – Duckstein Brewery, Margaret River
25th April – Duckstein Brewery, Margaret River
27th April – The Blues Club, Perth

NSW

19th February – The Heritage Hotel, Bulli
24th February – The Harpe, Tempe
25th February – Lizzottes, Kincumber

TASMANIA

30th January – Brookfield Vineyard, Margate
31st January – The Republic Bar, Hobart

MORE DATES TO BE CONFIRMED.

For booking enquiries contact – Val McGarry on 0402 841 711 or valmcgarry@optusnet.com.au

For ticketing and further information go to www.neilmurray.com.au or www.myspace/neilmurraymusic

For tour & album publicity enquiries contact – Leanne Menard, Menard PR on 0438 233 100 or leanne@menardpr.com.au

For ABC Local radio enquiries contact - Angela Schumann, ABC Label Manager on (02) 8333 3571 or schumann.angela@abc.net.au

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