

# BULLA MIDHONG

## *1 and 2 is 3*

**Big hART and the Bulla Midhong Collective Presents Bulla Midhong: an Album of Original Songs Featuring Home Grown Talent, Nooky and Prodikal-I**

**Produced by NSW South Coast Musician Syd Green with Sivan Agam and featuring NSW South Coast Yuin Nation Stories and Contemporary Songs Come Together in Album 'Bulla Midhong'**

**Arts and Social Change Organisation, Big hART, Connects South Coast Young People and Music Artists to Create Album Bulla Midhong**

Australia's leading arts and social change organisation **Big hART** presents *Bulla Midhong*, an inspiring collection of original songs, contemporary and retold stories written and nurtured on Yuin land by **First Nation's young people, communities**, and guests up and down the **NSW South Coast from Eden to Nowra**. The album is the work of numerous songwriters, musicians and other creatives, uniting under the name **The Bulla Midhong Collective**. Produced by well-known indie/rock drummer and producer **Syd Green** (Jervis Bay Recording Studio) and Co-Musical Director, **Sivan Agam**. *Bulla Midhong* features lead vocal contributions from **Nooky, Warren Foster Snr & Jnr (aka Prodikal-I), Mudgingaal Yangamba Choir, Nathan Lygon, Ross Knight, Eden Marine High School, Shoalhaven High School**, and young people from **Wallaga Lake Koori Village**.

Launched on 28 June with a live concert at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, 'Bulla Midhong' is an album of original songs and stories created as a legacy piece to a three-year intercultural project between schools, communities, cultural leaders, South Coast musicians, and leading arts and social change organisation Big hART.

*Bulla Midhong*, meaning 1 and 2 is 3, is an album that interweaves whale stories from Eden, stories of Gulaga (mother mountain) from Wallaga Lake, and the black cockatoo story from Nowra. Through music and narration, *Bulla Midhong* celebrates a deep connection to place and continues a long lineage of story-sharing across Yuin country.

*Bulla Midhong* has been created with young people, artists and cultural mentors up and down the South Coast over two years. This special album follows the success of a series of place-based events held in 2023, at the feet of three mountains, sharing three stories, connecting three communities. Now, these three communities present the culmination of those experiences, with live performances by contributors from Eden, Wallaga Lake and Nowra.

Over 3 years young people from Eden, Wallaga Lake and Nowra engaged in workshops in local First Nations culture, language, story, digital art, film-making and song writing. Kept safe by cultural mentors in each place young people went on-country and were invited to connect with the ancient stories of this land. Artist mentors supported participants in expressing their learnings through multiple creative forms. In the aftermath of the Black Summer bushfires and COVID-19

Pandemic, we facilitated the exploration of local stories as a way of building new connections to peers, to community, and a sense of identity grounded in place. We encouraged young people to celebrate their love for country, as their mother - letting the country speak louder than any stigma the townships carry. Young people expressed that the workshops not only opened their minds to creative industries as future careers pathways, but also made them feel a greater sense of connection, home and future in Eden, Wallaga Lake and Nowra.

## Biographies

### **Syd Green | Bulla Midhong Producer and Musical Co-Director**

With over two decades in the music industry, South Coast Producer Syd Green is a dynamic force, deeply immersed in a broad range of creative recording projects. Collaborating with established and emerging artists, he's drawn to those with raw, mouldable sounds. He merges each artist's vision with his own ear and rhythmic expertise, approaching harmonic resonance from a visceral, emotive perspective. His extensive experience allows him to guide artists through the recording process, nurturing their talent to bring out the best in their music. Currently touring and performing with Kasey Chambers, he's also worked with iOTA, Stiff Gins (Sydney Festival, Carriageworks –The Spirit of Things), Tall Shaun and 19Twenty to name a few. Whether in the studio or on stage, Syd's passion for music shines through, driving him to explore new avenues of creativity and collaboration.

### **Warren Foster Jnr AKA Prodikal-I | Cultural Mentor & Performer (Tracks 4 – Sticks and Stones, 5 – Home, 6 – King Merriman (We Are One))**

A Yuin Djiringanj man, Warren Foster Jnr started learning and practicing culture and traditional dancing from a young age, under the tuition of his father Warren Foster Snr, founder of the Gulaga Dancers and holder of traditional culture and knowledge for the far south coast. Warren is also an actor, writer and performing artist, performing original music in the form of Hip Hop, funk, folk and country. Warren has performed and worked in Aboriginal communities in the Central Desert NT, Roebourne WA, and in his home town Wallaga Lake, working with Grow The Music, Big hART, and his community—teaching, recording and developing music. Warren writes and performs Hip Hop music under the name Prodikal-I and has wowed crowds throughout Australia, including at the Wanderer Festival, Yabun and National Gallery of Australia, performing alongside Briggs, Cambodian Space Project, A.girl, the Strides, JK-47, Nooky, Barkaa, The Radical Son and the Black Jesus Experience.

This is a powerful offering for the country at large about the cultural strength of the Yuin nation. It promises to be an experience that will move hearts and minds.

## Quotes

### **Sivan Agam, Musical Director & Artist Mentor**

*The creation of Bulla Midhong has been a one-of-a-kind experience. Working on this album with the cultural mentors and young people from Eden, Wallaga Lake and Nowra has been a privilege, and I have so much appreciation for everyone's generosity. It's been amazing to watch everyone put so much love and meaning into the writing of these songs, and I've learned so much from the process. I feel honoured to be part of this special and unique project.*

### **Syd Green, Musical Director & Artist Mentor**

*Occasionally a project surpasses all expectations. Bulla Midhong began as a song-writing workshop with the young people from Nowra and evolved to unite the Wallaga Lake and Eden communities through creativity and culture. Big hART has excelled in merging and connecting these South Coast regions resulting in a beautiful and heartfelt record of a place we call 'home'.*

## About Big hART

Big hART's work exists to restore justice and disadvantage through innovative, transformational projects. Big hART uses film, theatre, documentary, events, music, podcasts, apps, digital media, and augmented and virtual reality to tell powerful stories - ensuring that the voices of the powerless can influence decision makers. No issue is too hard. Big hART's projects have highlighted issues of homelessness, addiction, slavery at sea, domestic violence, inequality and the intergenerational injustice faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Big hART supports First Nations communities to tell their own stories, enables young women to be change-makers in family violence hotspots, backs young people to create a new future for their planet, and works with isolated communities and prisons, delivering exceptional community driven project which are proven, evidence-based and innovative.

## Links

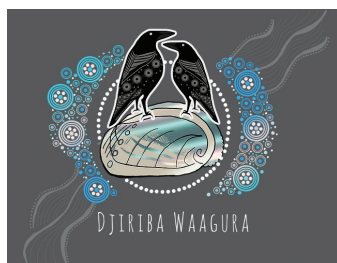
Read more about Above the Ground (parent project to Bulla Midhong) <https://www.bighart.org/projects/from-the-ground/>

Watch live performance of Numbers <https://vimeo.com/976062757/d0e819fe9b?share=copy>

Listen to the album here: [https://open.spotify.com/artist/5sglC8LHplCdbgwznzZxqJb?si=4NUxHlqhQjmMqD\\_8kHcy3A](https://open.spotify.com/artist/5sglC8LHplCdbgwznzZxqJb?si=4NUxHlqhQjmMqD_8kHcy3A) or a music streaming platform of your choice.

More information on Big hART: <https://www.bighart.org/>

*Interviews and photographs available upon request*



**MERRIMANS**  
Local Aboriginal Land Council



Gadhungal Marring



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