

# DESERT RHYTHM

with Greg Sheehan

30 - June - 7 July 2012



# DESERT RHYTHM- 2012

Amongst the gorges of the Macdonell Ranges and the flat expanse of the Missionary Plain, in Aboriginal communities and around a fire at night, Desert Rhythm will explore the sounds of percussive rhythm. As we walk through beautiful desert country participants will be *Rhythmatized*, thru hand-clapping games, body percussion and drumming. Workshops begin with simple hand-clapping games, counting out simple rhythms, getting familiar with the group rhythm dynamic. Different ways of hitting/slapping the body are introduced, eventually moving into wonderful syncopations weaving thru the group. The Body Percussion has a unique way of bonding a group thru Rhythm, being a great balance of mind/body co-ordination!

Once Rhythmatized, we then begin to explore the environment around us, perhaps finding 'drum' sticks and 'instruments' in the desert country around us. Logs, rocks, sticks, stones and rock pools all can provide wonderful sounds for percussive music. To be in such beautiful country and 'play' the desert will be an experience never to be forgotten. This journey will culminate in a performance on the final night at the Hermannsburg Church, which will be a showing of our rhythmical explorations from the journey ... Walking will never be the same again! No previous experience is needed, except an ability to create something wonderful with other inspired people.



**Greg Sheehan** is a rhythm magician. His astounding musicality and warm heart shine through the instruments he plays. He is firmly in the realm of Australia's great musical innovators, with his propensity for experimentation & exploration on all sorts of instruments. Greg is regarded internationally as an expert in his field. As a performer, he is significantly represented in the last three decades of Australian contemporary music as a solo artist, a live band member and a studio musician on hundreds of recordings. As a teacher Greg has co-ordinated many extraordinary community arts projects along with teaching professionals, students and the wider community his unique style of rhythmic notation and original body percussion techniques. Greg has inspired a wide range of participants in small groups as well as large festivals such as Woodford Folk Festival and WOMAD UK. Greg has developed a totally unique system of RHYTHM through number patterns, which emerge through his playing, teaching and body percussion.

Sat	Assemble at 2pm in foyer of the Alice Springs Resort - visit Araluen Arts Centre - final briefing in the evening. Dine at the Alice Springs Resort.
Sun	Walk from the Resort along the Todd River for the initial class. Transfer to our private desert camp at Davenport Creek in the foothills of Mt Sonder via some iconic landmarks. [4 hours easy/medium grade walking with plenty of time to stop]
Mon	Walk in the mesmerizing Ormiston Gorge. Return to Sonder Camp -[around 3/4 hours walking]
Tues	Enjoy a gentle walk from camp. Travel to Tjilpa camp on the Aboriginal community of Ipolera via Tyler's Pass with a view of the extraordinary Tnorala [Gosses Bluff]. We will be met by our hosts, Traditional Owner Herman Malbunka and Custodian Mavis Malbunka.. Camp at the Tjilpa Camp on Aranda country [2 hours walking]
Wed	Enjoy a day at the Tjilpa Camp. Mavis conducts a women's business visit while the men go to a secret men's place. Spend some quiet time in painting in this beautiful place. Evening meal with the Malbunka family. .
Thur	Break camp and travel to Palm Valley for a painting session. Return to the township of Hermannsburg, a place steeped in the history and drama of the Central Australian story. We will camp in the old Mission Cultural Precinct and perform that evening in the old church for the local people. [2 hours walking]
Fri	Break camp after a morning in Hermannsburg painting the old building. Wind our way back to Alice Springs via a short walk to Standley Chasm, a twisting maze of gorges and inspiration. Participate in a celebratory evening meal at the Resort.
Sat	Breakfast at the Resort and then personal time in Alice Springs before shuttle return to airport.

## TOTAL COST OF \$2990 INCLUDES

### INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights accommodation at the ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - twin share - [single upgrade \$150 per night] - includes cooked breakfasts.
- 4 nights desert camp under the stars with all camping equipment provided.
- 1 night accommodation in the historic township of Hermannsburg
- All 4 WD coach transport on trip.
- Formal & on-track workshops with facilitator, Greg Sheehan.
- Comprehensive and powerful indigenous interactions.
- Licensed guided Larapinta & Ilpurla Trail walks with lead guide, support vehicle & camp manager.
- All cooked breakfasts, morning & afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, snacks on the track.
- Araluen Arts Centre & the Namajira Galley on first Saturday.
- First aid, satellite phones, all National Park fees etc.
- Surprises that you will just have to take my word for.

### EXCLUSIONS:

- airfares - flight options can be viewed on the website
- evening meals in the Alice Springs Resort
- alcohol

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$600 WILL SECURE YOUR BOOKING. ALL TRIP NOTES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au)

or call 0414 929768

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## **OVERALL**

Into the Blue designs your itinerary around the capacity and objectives of the group. The itinerary seeks to blend all elements such as indigenous culture, interpretation and the workshop. Please note that the itinerary may change due to weather, aboriginal cultural imperatives or simply to better suit the objectives of the group.

## **WORKSHOP**

Desert Rhythm will explore the sounds of percussive rhythm. As we walk through beautiful desert country participants will be Rhythmatized, through hand-clapping games, body percussion and drumming. No previous experience is needed, except an ability to create something wonderful with other inspired people. Workshops begin with simple hand-clapping games, counting out simple rhythms, getting familiar with the group rhythm dynamic. Different ways of hitting/slapping the body are introduced, eventually moving into wonderful syncopations weaving through the group. The Body Percussion has a unique way of bonding a group through Rhythm, being a great balance of mind/body co-ordination and FUN! Once Rhythmatized, we then begin to explore the environment around us, perhaps finding 'drum' sticks and 'instruments' in the desert country around us. Logs, rocks, sticks, stones, cans, old bits of cars, machinery, rock pools all can provide wonderful sounds for percussive music. To be in such beautiful country and 'play' the desert will be an experience never to be forgotten. This journey will culminate in a performance on the final night at the Hermannsburg Church, which will be a showing of our rhythmical explorations from the journey ... Walking will never be the same again!

## **ABORIGINAL**

The aboriginal interactions are a feature of Into the Blue programs. Meaningful and personal interaction with some of Central Australia's most articulate and passionate indigenous advocates is a profound highlight of the trip. We will spend extended time with aboriginal artists as well.

## **FITNESS**

The walking component of Desert Rhythm allows you to feel the landscape around you. The walks will not be compulsory and alternate activities can be found, however, the walking will allow you to appreciate remote places and draw, sketch and paint where none else can. Please contact Into the Blue to discuss any fitness issues. If you decide to walk you will carry a simple day pack that includes water, jacket, lunch, camera etc.

## **CAMP LIFE**

Our nights under the stars will be a highlight of the trip. Whilst the facilities are basic there will be a composting toilet & swimming possibilities. Sleeping will be in comfortable swags and/or tents. All camping gear is supplied. You will be expected to share some tasks around the camp such as rolling your swag etc.

## **HERMANSBURG**

We stay in our swags in the old Hermannsburg Precinct. There are showers and flushing toilets available during our stay at the Hermannsburg Precinct.

## **CLIMATE**

Expect cool nights and warm, clear days. This is generally a magnificent time of the year in the Australian desert with everything that crawls soundly asleep and no or few flies.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

A printable equipment and clothing list is provided on the website under the PAINTING THE DESERT journey. There is a separate list for art equipment on the website

## **FLIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION**

All accommodation is at the Chifley Alice Springs Resort. If walkers are intending to arrive earlier in Alice or to stay longer they can book their own accommodation at the Alice Springs Resort at the Into the Blue corporate rate. When booking quote the Into the Blue Trip Name. CONTACT - 08 89514545

## **ALCOHOL**

There will be no alcohol on this trip as we are on aboriginal land for the duration.

## **UPON BOOKING**

A representative of the Into the Blue shall call you upon booking. Final payment is due one month before your departure. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you might have.