Show in great working order

Monica O’Hanlon

FANS of the iconic television show Bush Mechanics are in for a treat at the upcoming Mbantua Festival, as they will see Bush Mechanics Live, a spectacular and noisy celebration of bush mechanics, desert ingenuity, Territorian humour, dancing machinery, speed, metal and fire.

Writer and show director David Batty has a career spanning more than 27 years writing, producing, directing and shooting both documentary and drama throughout the country including, of course, most parts of remote Australia. He is currently up in Alice Springs preparing for the live show, and said people should get ready for something that would be completely different.

“This show will be bigger and have lots of events. It’ll be unique, it’ll be like nothing that anyone has ever seen before.”

Although Bush Mechanics aired in 2003, Mr Batty said the program had “a life of its own” and this new performance would continue to demonstrate the incredible talent set of Territorian people and how they used what they had to fix a problem.

“In the show we learnt a lot of the tricks, I think the Aboriginal people have this incredible ability to be able to adapt cars and to be ingenious in how they keep them going. They know how to use a pair of pliers and thin keeping them going with a bit of wire.”

Bush Mechanics writer and director David Batty with bush mechanic and co-writer Francis Kelly.

Co-director and bush mechanic in the series, Francis Jupurrurla Kelly, will star in the live performance, which is set to be bigger and better than ever.

Mr Kelly who lives in Yuendumu, said he learned his bush mechanic skills from “watching the old people”, and the knowledge had helped him out of a lot of tricky situations, including the ability to charge a battery in a fire.

“On one of our trips we broke down because of our clutch. We had to make a make a mulga stick into a boomerang shape and stick it underneath and put the gear on,” said Mr Kelly.

“You put the motor car on and you’re on your way.”

Guiding the way for girls

THE Girl Guide’s international skills day on Sunday is the perfect way to try new things if you are a young girl aged five and over.

Ms Winter said it is a great way for little girls to learn different things.

“They’re going to have an international lunch with lots of sushi, fried rice and Italian food.

“Part of it is all free for them.”

Mr Kelly said if you’re aged five and over, and want to make new friends, make sure you head on down.

The sale will start from 8.30am at the Girl Guide’s Hall from 11am on Sunday.

To secure your spot, call Sue Ride on 0400870208.

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