Rooting for reggae fest

Corey Sinclair

ORGANISERS of Alice Springs’ first outdoor reggae festival hope to make it an annual event.

Reggae in the Desert is the brainchild of Jonathan De Wet, who felt there was a need for a reggae festival in Alice Springs.

“We’ve done quite a few reggae events already around town but this would be the biggest one with different bands,” he said.

“Usually we just have one band but this time we have a few. We have an eight-piece reggae band from New Zealand called Skatter Roots, who will be performing.”

He hopes holding the festival in Alice Springs, it could lead to the town becoming a part of the reggae circuit.

“Reggae is growing in Australia and we are the centre of Australia,” he said.

“Reggae has started to expand with the first coming of Lucky Dube and it has started spreading more.

“Artists from Jamaica and England are starting to tour all over Australia. They are seeing it as the next reggae circuit.

“To make Alice Springs the next part of that circuit would be great.”

Mr De Wet would like to see reggae take its rightful place among the other music genres in town.

“It hasn’t yet grown as popular as rock or country, but there is definitely a place for reggae,” he said.

“Reggae has a presence here. You cannot judge all genres of music but reggae has more of a feel to it, it’s like the blues.”

The festival will feature performances from Eastern Reggae, Dr. Strange, Tilt Vision, Greatfull Dread, Skatter Roots, Mr Barba and more.

“So far we’ve got three bands booked and some surprise guests coming in as well,” Mr De Wet said.

“We’d love to make this an annual event, especially the day after Big Band Bash because there are a lot of people in town.”

Mr De Wet said the festival will be a great family event where you can be outdoors and listen to live music.

“There will be 12 hours of music,” he said.

“I put late on the flyer because it depends on Alice Springs. It will be a great night of music.

“There will be a variety of different reggae genres on display including dancehall, raggas and roots.

“Reggae has all of sub-genres the same as rock and metal, “he said.

“It is all different styles of reggae.”

Reggae in the Desert will be held on Sunday from 1pm until late.

Organisers of Alice Springs’ first outdoor reggae festival hope to make it an annual event.

The Sandridge Band from Borroloola will be performing at the Bush Bands Bash tomorrow.

The Bush Bands Bash is proudly an initiative of MusicNT.

Monika O’Hallion

CONTEMPORARY indigenous music will take to the big stage at Alice Springs and the world stage tomorrow when the 16th annual Bush Bands Bash is webcast live.

The Bush Bands Bash is the biggest concert celebrating the music of indigenous bands from communities across Central Australia.

MusicNT manager Mark Smith is thrilled that for the first time the concert will be accessible to everyone, from those living in remote communities, to the big cities in Australia and across the globe, with the Bash live streamed through the MusicNT website.

The live stream of the Bush Bands Bash celebrates the 10th year of the event and the pivotal role Bush Bands plays in the showcasing and development of contemporary indigenous music.

In addition, this year’s event has grown to include a special performance from the Desert Divas, a group of indigenous female singer songwriters from Central Australia who are extending the development opportunities the event provides for indigenous music.

The live stream will be provided by TILT Vision, a Sydney-based production collective that was responsible for the popular broadcast of the Barkly Region’s Desert Harmony Festival.

“MusicNT is proud to once again be hosting the Bush Bands Bash, bringing a night of amazing music to Alice Springs,” Mr Smith said.

“This is a great opportunity to celebrate 10 years of the Bash and this year, open up this incredible concert to the world. Reaamed from the centre of the country to your computer the Bush Bands Bash will be a night of epic music showcasing the talent emerging proud and strong from this region.”

The line-up includes performances by Eastern Reggae from Santa Teresa, Max and the Cruizers from Hermannsburg, Running Water Band from Kintore, Wampana Band from Yuendumu, and Lakesian, Wanarn Band from Wanarn, and the WMIC All Stars from Tennant Creek.

There will also be a special guest performance by Sandridge Band from Borroloola and Narakale all the way from Manton.

The event will take place at Snowy Mountains Park from 8pm.

The Bush Bands Bash is proudly a drug and alcohol free event. Entry is $5 at the gate and children under 16 are free.

For more information head to www.bushbandsbash.net.au

The Bush Bands Bash is a broadcast of the Bush Bands Bash live.

Global headbang

IN an event to celebrate heavy metal music between cultures, Metal Across All Borders will be held at the The Gap View Hotel today from 7pm.

With a range of heavy metal bands from across the country, as well as Japan’s own Palm, this night is sure to please the most enthusiastic of listeners.

With Triple J’s metal presenter Lochlan Watt (pictured) on board, the trip will be documented and created into a film which will also be translated to Japanese.

Metal Across Borders will also play at Santa Teresa on Saturday evening, the only two performances the event will be holding in the Northern Territory.

Audiences will be treated to a talented line-up of bands from around Australia including The Black Wreath, In the Burial and A Secret Death.

Tickets are $15 at the door.