



BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

Blues for the Bush returns to Charles Darwin Reserve

Up to 2000 people expected to attend September event, CW Stoneking to headline

Much-loved Western Australian music festival **Blues for the Bush** is back from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 September, with some of the most exciting independent blues musicians in Australia to perform to a crowd of up to 2000 at Bush Heritage's Charles Darwin Reserve on Badimaya country near Perenjori.

Co-hosted by Bush Heritage Australia and the Shire of Perenjori, Blues for the Bush 2018 will be headlined by legendary blues musician CW Stoneking (solo), with other class acts including Three Kings, Caiti Baker, William Crighton and local acts.

The festival will take place on Saturday September 22, with a Community Open Day from 9am to 4pm followed by an extensive blues music program from 4pm until midnight.

Luke Bayley, Bush Heritage's Executive Manager West Region, welcomed Blues for the Bush back to Charles Darwin Reserve for the fourth time since 2013.

"Blues for the Bush is a special event for Bush Heritage, the Shire of Perenjori and the hundreds of community members and visitors who come along to enjoy the beautiful atmosphere of Charles Darwin Reserve," Luke said.

"To watch the sun go down over fields of wildflowers while listening to world-class blues music is an unforgettable experience.

"Blues for the Bush is also about learning, including about the culture and country of the

Traditional Owners of Charles Darwin Reserve, the Badimaya people."

A variety of events will take place over the Open Day including workshops, circus, guest speakers, community afternoon tea and panel discussions on local land conservation. Tours of the reserve will take place with Bush Heritage staff and a number of local food vendors will be on site. Free camping is available with toilets and hot showers on site.

Charles Darwin Reserve is a 68,800 hectare former pastoral property in the heart of WA's wildflower country. It has been protected for conservation by Bush Heritage since 2003 and provides habitat for more than 230 animal and 680 plant species.

Species found at Charles Darwin include the Malleefowl (nationally vulnerable) and the Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider (nationally vulnerable), Acacia cerastes (a rare wattle) and Wurmbea sp. White Wells (a lily endemic to the reserve) as well as Salmon Gum and York Gum woodlands.

Tickets to Blues for the Bush are on sale now from www.bluesforthebush.org.au Tickets cost \$80 for adults and \$25 for children (camping costs inclusive). The campsite will open at noon on Friday, September 21 until noon Sunday, September 23. The Open Day is free to attend.

Charles Darwin Reserve is located 380km north east from Perth and 80km from Perenjori. A free shuttle bus will run between Charles Darwin and Perenjori regularly throughout Saturday, September 22.

