

TANDERRUM

Performed by the clans of the Kulin Nation
Stories. Dance. Paint. Song.



The first words of the 2017 Melbourne Festival will go to those who have been here the longest with **Tanderrum** – part opening ceremony and part Welcome to Country as we celebrate the ground we stand on and the people whose ancestors walked it before our time.

Tanderrum is a meeting of the five clans of the Kulin nation and a communal celebration that reaches across time to a tradition all but lost since the founding of Melbourne. This cross-cultural moment had vanished until recently, but has quickly become an essential and living element of Melbourne Festival.

Elders from the five clans of the Eastern Kulin: **Wurrundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taunwurrung, Wadawurrung** and the **Dja Dja Wurrung** invite the visitors to the festival and the people of Melbourne into their **Tanderrum** to celebrate and share their cultural heritage. This year's ceremony will end with a Kulin Nation tribute to the murrup (spirit) of William Barak. Barak was Ngurungeta—a leader, warrior and spokesperson for Wurundjeri Country and the final dance of **Tanderrum** will include a song reclaimed from rare historical recordings of Barak.

Now in its fifth year, the space between the busiest intersection in Melbourne's CBD, is recreated into its untouched self. The ceremonial fire breathes smoke as it's surrounded by Australian soil, gum-leaves and bark and representatives from all generations dance, sing and perform their traditional acknowledgment of the land.

The Kulin nations are the five language groups that traditionally lived in the Port Phillip region. These language groups were connected through shared moieties – the Bunjil (wedge tailed eagle) and Waa (crow).

Within each language group, members of the community identified with one or the other of these moieties. It was their moiety that determined the pattern for marriage between individuals, clans and tribes. Community members had to find spouses from another language group of the opposite moiety, either within or outside their own wurrung (language group).

Through **Tanderrum**, Melbourne Festival and its visitors acknowledge the lore of creator spirit Bunjil and pay their respects to the vibrant and living culture of this land. When local and international artists pass through the smoke, they agree to follow the lore of the land and pay their respect to its custodians before receiving permission to perform song and dance on this land. This is the lore of Bunjil that has existed for over 50,000 years.

Federation Square

Wed 4 Oct

6.30pm

1 hr, no interval

Free

www.festival.melbourne

#melbfest

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