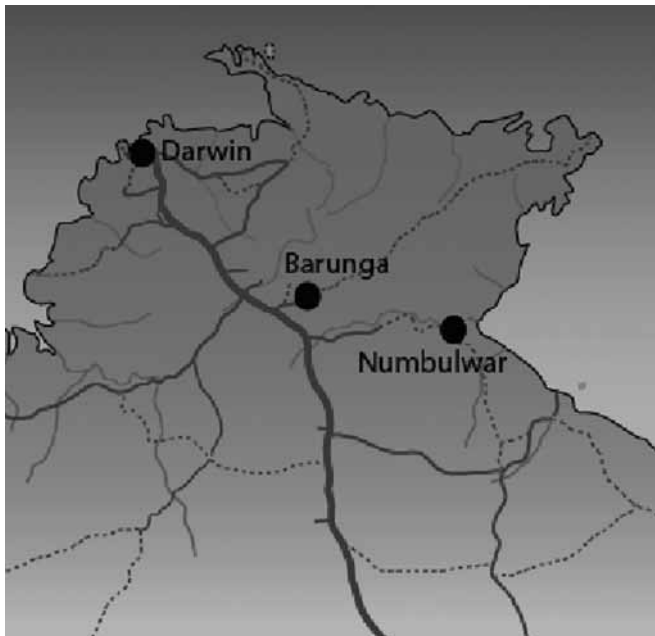


Singing it for Road Safety

by Aaron Watson



Aboriginal bands from across the Northern Territory will feature on a soon to be released compilation CD that promotes safe road use practices. A number of emerging bands took part in the inaugural Road Safety Song Competition at the 2006 Barunga Cultural and Sports Festival on the June long weekend. The Barunga community is located 80 km South East of Katherine. The winning road safety songs, recorded during the Festival, will feature on a compilation CD along with an exciting blend of traditional to contemporary music performed at Barunga.

In the NT, Aboriginal people make up nearly 30% of the total population, yet they consistently represent around 50% of road crash fatalities. The Road Safety Song Competition is in response to the challenges faced when delivering road safety messages across the large land mass of the NT, and aims to get the message out in a form that Aboriginal people really connect with.



The band, Sabata from Darwin won first prize of \$2000 for the best song, Get Together, which promotes people thinking about getting around safely whether they are in town or in remote areas. The song is an easy listening reggae style track packed full of important road safety messages and funky tunes.

Broken Vision from Numbulwar came runner up with their song Alcoholic Driving which emphasises that alcohol and cars should never be mixed. A special commendation was awarded to the Barunga Community School for their "Rod Seifti song" which was sung in Pidgin English and featured costumes and hand signals.

The winning songs will be used for various educational and promotional purposes. It is hoped that Aboriginal radio stations will also play the winning songs on a regular basis. The Road Safety Song Competition has generated a great deal of interest at the community level and the Northern Territory Government plans to support it again in 2007.

For further details about the Road Safety Song Competition or the compilation CD visit the websites www.roadsafety.nt.gov.au or www.skinnyfishmusic.com.au.

