

Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival

2nd Annual Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival
1pm-5pm Saturday 13 September 2025
Huskisson Pictures

- **A remarkable collection of 7 films by First Nations filmmakers, celebrating the achievements of the Elders and the determination of the next generation to continue to tell stories that should not be forgotten**
- **3 short films made by young First Nations filmmakers on the NSW South Coast – Unexpected Visitor (2025), The Circle (2013) and 2506 (2010)**
- **Unexpected Visitor emerged from SFNFF's storytelling and filmmaking May workshops. World premier from first time local writer/director!**
- **2506 is a story of young love, crime and regret; The Circle follows a young man lost, spiritually and literally, as he faces a circle of Elders rather than a courtroom, and finds his voice, on Country**
- **2 films from award winning First Nations filmmakers - No Way to Forget (1996) and Prison Songs (2015) - remind us of the injustices and inequities behind high rates of incarceration**
- **Program ends with a story of resilience, determination and hope, One Heart, One Mind (2024)**
- **Program details [here](#)**
- **Tickets available \$15 per person from [Trybooking](#)**
- **Mob tix available by [email](#) at sfnff2025@gmail.com**

The Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival celebrates the creativity and diversity of First Nations filmmakers from across Australia and from our own community.

The 2nd annual SFNFF will begin with a **Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony provided by Gadhungal Marring** in the forecourt of [Huskisson Pictures](#) at 12.30pm.

The selection of films was based on the dual themes of:

1. *Celebrating the achievements of First Nations People* – guided by the wisdom of the Elders and the remarkable determination of those who sought and secured recognition and rights
2. *Recognising that there is still a long way to go* in many areas to achieve rightful justice and equality, with the focus on the factors leading to high rates of incarceration and the continuing tragedy of deaths in custody

Unexpected Visitor, written and directed by Tolbin Parsons, is an extraordinary achievement from an 18-year-old from Nowra. From a story he first told at the SFNFF storytelling and filmmaking workshops in May, Tolbin developed the script for *Unexpected Visitor*, and together with Jamie Lepre, a South Coast filmmaker, crafted the short film that will be screened for the first time on 13 September.

Telling Their Stories, a short documentary, filmed and edited by local multi-disciplinary creative and art therapist, Julie Cunningham, shows glimpses into how participants developed their stories within the workshops.

No Way to Forget, Richard Frankland's powerful short film, and Kelrick Martin's **Prison Songs** remind us of the injustices and inequities behind high rates of incarceration amongst First Nations People that continue thirty years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

2506 and **The Circle** reflect young people's understanding of the impact of the cycles on incarceration on their lives. In **2506**, young people use their own experiences of crime, love and hardship to create a unique blend of hip-hop and musical cinema. **The Circle** shows the power of traditional forms of justice, as a young man, caught between two worlds, and lost, spiritually and literally, faces a circle of Elders rather than a courtroom. Sent to work with his Uncle on Country, he finds his voice and a way to face his own past.

One Heart, One Mind, offers a message of hope as Larissa Behrendt traces the 50-year struggle for land rights recognition and the resilience and determination of those most hurt and affected by the defeat of the Voice referendum.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that the following poster contains images of deceased persons.

The poster for the Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival is set against a black background with a yellow border. At the top, the festival name is in a yellow box. Below it, text in yellow and white describes the event. The center features four film posters: 'ONE MIND ONE HEART' (a person's profile), 'PRISON SONGS' (a group of people), '2506' (two men in a car), and 'THE CIRCLE' (a man's face). A QR code is in the bottom right. The footer contains program and booking information.

Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival

Showcasing award winning & local First Nations filmmakers

1pm Saturday 13th September Huskisson Pictures

ONE MIND ONE HEART

PRISON SONGS

2506

THE CIRCLE

Program: sfnff.wordpress.com Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/DECGP>