

# Russell 'Rusty' Smith

Singer / Songwriter / Guitar / Didgeridoo



Russell Smith is a Pitjantjatjara man from Port Augusta. He has spent much of his life in Melbourne and now resides on Tamborine Mountain in Queensland with his wife and two young children. Rusty's music career has taken him around Australia and to all parts of the globe, working with some of the world's most recognised musicians. As a founding member of The Brolga Boys in 1996 he created one of the most iconic Indigenous bands in Australia.

2019 marks 23 years since The Brolga Boys first show and after a few years of the band following their own projects, The original members Rusty, Dave Mudie (Courtney Barnett) and Benny James have reunited to record a new album with some of their favourite musicians. With a swag of new songs from three years apart, and all the life experience that entails, the new and more inclusively named BROLGA are back and there is a real buzz!

## Career Highlights / performances

- Recording of Guy Sebastian's "The World of Pure Imagination" at DreamWorld
- Archie Roach 'Let Love Rule' Album
- Rodriguez - 'The Return of the Sugar Man' Australian Tour 2017
- Archie Roach Album Launch in Melbourne 'Let Love Rule'
- Archie Roach overseas tour: France, England, Scotland and Ireland 2017 "The Let Love Rule Tour"
- Tommy Emmanuel at the Lorient Festival, France
- Dreaming festival - Brolga Boys with Yothu Yindi, Warumpi Band, Coloured Stone and Jimmy Little 2006
- Even on New Album – A Different High 1998
- The Dandy Warhol's Tour 1998
- Living Colour Tour 1998
- Paula Cole The Fire Tour 1996 with Doug Wimbish (Living Colour)
- Peter Sculthorpe Two pianos and one Didgeridoo - Australian consulate Paris and French tour
- AFL Grand Final - Various years with Archie Roach, Jane's addiction, Shane Howard / Goanna
- Formed world music superband 'Manta trio' and played Didgeridoo with Ashley Naylor (Guitar) and Theo Chen (Cello) to raptuous audiences around Australia including the ABC's '[Spicks and Specks](#)'
- 1990 – 2010 Toured with Traditional Owner Aunty Joy Murphy and played Didgeridoo for Nelson Mandela, Xanana Gusmao and Muhammed Ali

## Other Roles

- Myer foundation - Indigenous philanthropy advisor
- Virgin Airlines - Indigenous ambassador
- Building Bridges - Director and Indigenous philanthropy advisor
- Jack Morton - Indigenous Relations manager (Commonwealth Games opening and closing ceremony 2018)
- AFL Indigenous Foundation - Advisor and assistant to Michael Long
- The Long Walk - Board member
- Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - previous board member