



Scott Estrich stripping bark from an Ironbark branch at an outstation in Arnhem Land.

## Music Culture

No matter what part of the world you find yourself, the didgeridoo is a driving force behind international interest in Australian indigenous culture.

Two years ago, Scott Estrich saw the power of the didgeridoo to woo international audiences when he played with a group on stage in Copenhagen to celebrate the marriage of Australia's Mary Donaldson to Prince Fredrick.

"We played in front of more than 3000 cheering Danish fans in the city town square, all waving tiny Danish and Australian flags," Scott says. "There was a real buzz over the entire city."

Recently returned from Scandinavia, Scott now resides in Sunshine Beach with plans to 'drone-up' a storm of interest for the didgeridoo by locals and visitors alike. "Go to any city in Europe and mention that you play the didgeridoo and the reaction is both a

spontaneous smile and a curious question on how this strange instrument is played," he says.

The didgeridoo or 'yidaki' as it is more commonly named to respect the custodial ties to the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land, is one of the world's most remarkable instruments and according to Scott, it has been taken to heart by many Europeans. "Alongside indigenous art, the didgeridoo promotes a genuine curiosity for Australian indigenous culture," he says.

Scott knows all too well the word on the street in Europe, having travelled and resided in many countries during the past 10 years. After living in some of Sweden's major cities he settled in the mid-north bordering Norway. "I played

in many concerts and festivals and always found a crowd of interested Swedes waiting around wanting to know more about how to play," he says. "Later, I worked for the Swedish Tourism Authority up in the north of Sweden and was called on regularly to play the didgeridoo for guest and conference groups."

"Each didgeridoo has its own character. When you play you must be totally centred within yourself and be in contact with the very motion and fluidity of your entire body. For many it is meditative and calming; for others vitalising and a source of great energy."

*Workshops will be run on the Sunshine Coast. For details visit [www.bushlab.com](http://www.bushlab.com) or phone Scott Estrich on 040 340 4492.*