



# LOCAL KNOWLEDGE CALL IT A DAY

**One of the most successful Indigenous groups in Australia has parted ways. But it ain't all over for this band of brothas.**

**B**ack in 2002, brothers Abie and Warwick "Wok" Wright approached mate Joel Wenitong about forming a hip hop crew. All three shared a common passion for producing and performing hip hop music, and Joel also had his own studio.

What eventuated was the most popular and successful Australian Indigenous hip hop crew ever; a proud, community-minded Aboriginal trio who aptly called themselves Local Knowledge.

The three began taking their message to Indigenous communities around the country, picking up a fourth member, DJ Jaytee, along the way. The crew broke into mainstream radio waves, collected a swathe of awards, rocked sold-out concerts and earned themselves an army of fans.

But four years on, Local Knowledge have decided to call it a day. Joel has now teamed up with his sister Naomi, also from Shakaya, while Abie and Wok have formed a new group, Street Warriors.

"We had a blast," says Abie of his time with the group. "We were the first to combine hip

hop with Aboriginal culture, and now there's plenty of brothers and sisters out there shaking a leg and having a good time."

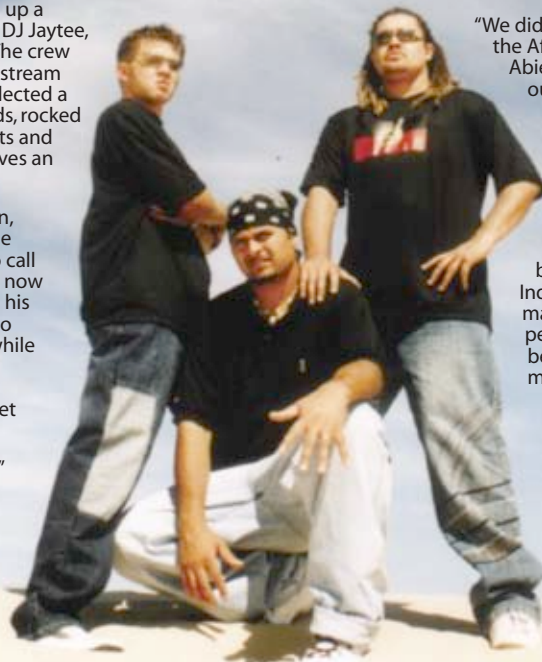
Two of Local Knowledge's top achievements include Indigenous Band of the Year at the 2004 Music Oz Awards and the 2005 Deadly Award for Band of the Year.

Indeed, Local Knowledge were trailblazers in many regards. They laid the groundwork for Indigenous hip hop performers across the country to find their own voice, unclouded by the often overbearing American element inherent within hip hop culture.

"We didn't want to become clones of the African American hip hop scene," Abie explains. "We wanted to put out something that was true to us; something that our people could be proud of."

"I think we achieved that. And now Wok and I want to go on and take it to another level."

In their time, Local Knowledge became synonymous with Indigenous pride, speaking out about many issues that affect Indigenous people. And while they may no longer be performing, their legacy and message will certainly live on.



**Local Knowledge:  
The original crew**



## ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the heading on page 8 (Local Knowledge call it a day), the two sentences in bold type under the heading (One of the most successful Indigenous groups in Australia has parted ways. But it ain't all over for this band of brothas), the photograph and the caption to the left of the photo (Local Knowledge: The original crew).

**Read the first two sentences in bold and look at the graphics.**

1. What does Call it a day in the title refer to?

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2. Which Indigenous group has "parted ways"?

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3. How many people were in the original Local Knowledge group? \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. In what year did the hip hop group Local Knowledge form? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the three original members of Local Knowledge.

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3. What passion did these three have in common?

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4. Who was the fourth member of the group?

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5. What is Abie and Wok's new group called?

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6. List two awards that the group has achieved.

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7. List three things that Local Knowledge contributed to Australian hip hop.

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### ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

(Read the words from the article as well as the sentences around them).

Words from the article	My words that mean the same thing
"The crew broke into mainstream radio waves"	
"We had a blast"	
"...Local Knowledge were trailblazers in many regards"	
"They laid the groundwork for Indigenous hip hop performers across the country to find their own voice"	
"We didn't want to become clones of the African American hip hop scene"	



## ACTIVITY 4: OVERVIEW

The following comes from [www.deadlymob.org](http://www.deadlymob.org)

When Indigenous hip hop band Local Knowledge sing, their words and music reflect the reality of life not in America but Australia. Their rap songs reflect about real life issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

They take pride in their identity and self determination. They are heavily involved in teaching about Indigenous issues, using sharp hard hitting lyrics which tell how it is growing up Indigenous in Australia.

“We are Indigenous, our culture is 40 000 plus years old, that’s something to be proud of.”

Imagine that you have formed a music group.

Write a similar overview of what you would want your group to be recognised for.

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## FURTHER READING:

Read more about Local Knowledge and for pictures of the group, go to:

[www.abc.net.au/message/blackarts/music/s](http://www.abc.net.au/message/blackarts/music/s)

[www.abc.net.au/triplej/gallery/local\\_knowledge](http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/gallery/local_knowledge)