

MASTER CRAFTSMAN

ARTIST, MUSO AND RACONTEUR - PROUD
BLACKFELLA ADAM HILL IS A JACK OF ALL TRADE!

An accomplished contemporary urban artist, graphic designer, illustrator and yidaki (didgeridoo) player, Adam Hill has successfully managed to combine the traditional with the modern to create a unique, bold style that pulls no punches.

The same could be said of Adam. This proud Dhungatti man is a fierce advocate of social justice, who is actively involved with organisations such as Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR), often contributing his time and talent, including the recent design and installation of a Sea of Hands at Sydney's Hyde Park. He also regularly speaks to groups of school and university students about his experiences growing up as a Koori in the western suburbs of Sydney.

As a didj player, Adam has performed at high-profile events such as the Deadly Awards, the Festival of the Dreaming, the Rugby World Cup opening ceremony and the final of Australian Idol.

Adam's work can be seen at galleries and on murals at schools, council buildings and shopping malls across New South Wales and Australia, and his illustrations also grace the pages of this magazine.

His latest work was unveiled on Survival Day at Ashfield Town Hall in Sydney. Adam was commissioned by ANTaR to create a mural that told the story of the Indigenous people of the area – the Wangal clan – from the time before British invasion to the present day.

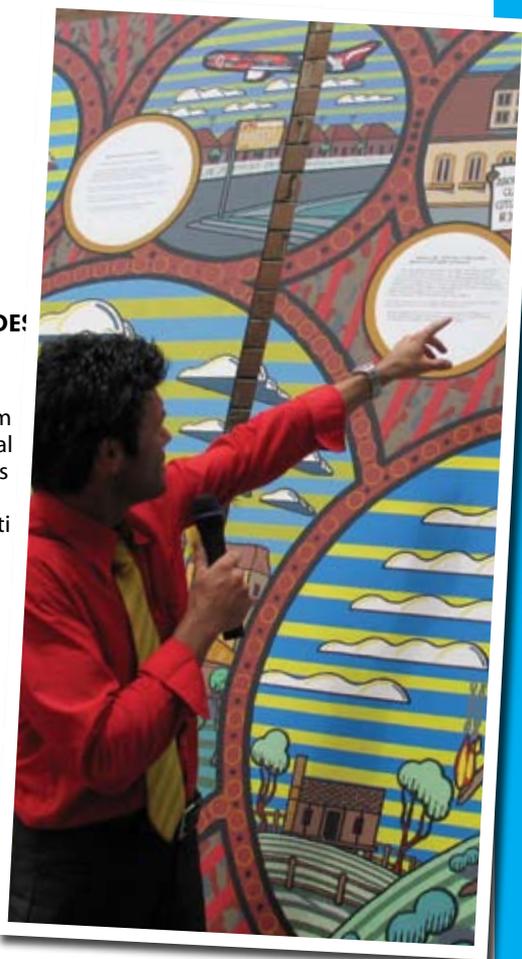
"Before I started painting, I met with a focus group from who gave me a written history," Adam explains. "I used this to create a visual story that combines picture circles and written words that captures significant moments in the Indigenous survival story."

The mural is set on a background of hands, which have become a recognisable symbol of reconciliation for both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

"It's designed to draw the Ashfield community's attention to the continuing contribution of Australia's first people," Adam says. "The position it's in will encourage passers-by to stop and learn something about this area's history. This in turn will hopefully inspire Ashfield residents to play a part in protecting and honouring this land, as Aboriginal tradition asks us to do."

Adam is now working on his next solo exhibition, to be held at the Mori Gallery in Sydney. He's also preparing for a new album release.

"It's been a long time in the making," he says of the album. "I've got together with three deadly musos – Calvin Welsch, Paul Jarman and Andrew De Teliga. We're hoping for a March release."



ACTIVITY 1: READING FOR MEANING

Circle the correct answer:

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- a. Adam Hill is a talented yidaki (didj) player.
- b. Adam Hill uses his art and music talents to represent Aboriginal history and the importance of reconciliation in contemporary Australia.
- c. Adam Hill has performed at the Deadlys.

2. In the clause, "an accomplished contemporary urban artist", the word "accomplished" means:

- a. finishing an art piece
- b. well recognised and successful
- c. together with

True or false?

3. Adam Hill is an artist, graphic designer, illustrator and yidaki player.

- TRUE
- FALSE

3. Adam is a Dhungatti man. (

- TRUE
- FALSE

4. Adam has performed at the Festival of the Dreaming and the AFL Grand Final.

- TRUE
- FALSE

5. In what order did these things happen? Write numbers in the boxes. (interpretive)

- Adam's latest work was unveiled on Survival Day at Ashfield Town Hall.
- Ashfield residents may be inspired by Adam's mural to play a part in protecting and honouring traditional Aboriginal land.
- Before Adam started painting the mural, he met with a focus group who gave him a written story.





ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

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

WORD	MEANING
"Adam Hill has successfully managed to combine the traditional with the modern."	
Adam Hill "pulls no punches".	
Adam Hill "is a fierce advocate of social justice".	
..."Adam has performed in high-profile events".	
"Adam was commissioned ... to create a mural".	

ACTIVITY 3: ANTONYMS

Match the words on the left with their opposites on the right. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| recently | rural |
| including | passive |
| active | excluding |
| urban | discourage |
| encourage | a long time ago |





ACTIVITY 4: SPELLING

Spelling rule: When a word of one syllable ends in a single vowel plus a single consonant, the consonant is doubled when adding a suffix like **ed**.

Make the word in brackets end in **ed**. Write the new word in the space.

Adam _____ at the mall. (shop)

At the end of the performance he _____ playing. (stop)

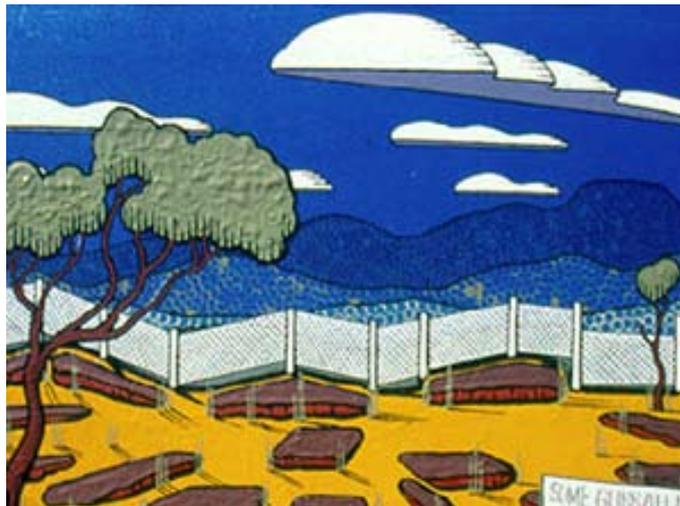
The audience _____ loudly when he finished his song. (clap)

Everyone _____ along with the music. (hum)

Adam _____ to release another album soon. (plan)

ACTIVITY 5: VIEWING AND APPRECIATING

Below is one of Adam Hill's recent artworks. What do you think that Adam wants his audience to see in this painting? How would you describe his style? What do you think Adam's message to his audience is? Write your ideas below and say what you like about this painting.



Just for fun!

Write a paragraph in which every word starts with a vowel. Start all the words in the next paragraph with a consonant. Have a friend read it and see if they notice.