Name:

VIBE ACTIVITIES

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VIBE ACTIVITIES

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cook, clean, look for a job if you didn't have one, and then we'd go on rallies."

The idea for the documentary grew from a 19-minute short film Marlene produced for the Metro Screen competition. The comedic take on the Black Panther movement in Australia was called Seize the Dreamtime, referencing the 1960's protest-era book Seize the Time penned by African-American Black Panther member Bobby Seale

"It was playing with the difference between blackfellas in America, who were gun-toting revolutionaries, as opposed to us being Panthers in Australia, from a comical perspective," recalls Marlene, "and the fact that we are very spiritual people and would be more likely to chuck the gun and run. We could never be these gun-toting terrorists.

"It was a comedy, but I was also stating the parallels between us.... At the end of the day, the Black Panthers were a humanitarian group, it's just that they were fighting for the constitutional right to carry a gun to defend themselves. We were barefoot Panthers, frightened of ghosts," Marlene says with a laugh.

Metro Screen loved the short film and encouraged Marlene to develop it into a feature-length documentary. She approached a few different producers but nothing got off the ground. It wasn't until Rachel Perkins, an old friend of Marlene's, had some free time in her schedule that the project really took off.

"It wasn't until recently that we were able to start working together," says Marlene.

"We actually go way back. We played in a band together, called The Amunda Band - me on sax and Rachel on lead vocals. So we have a longstanding and good relationship. I wanted to do the story with her.

"My initial idea was to focus just on this particular chapter of the Black Panther party, but Rachel wanted it to be about my story and encouraged me to open up about my experiences. I was a b apprehensive at first, but I eventually ent along with the idea."

While the story is mainly focused on Marlene, it also comments on the issue of violence against women, something

"My documentary is also me being outspoken about abuses relating to women and children," says Marlene. "I speak from my own Aboriginal belief system; [in the past] Aboriginal women's strengths were recognised and played an integral part in the wellbeing of their community. They were shown an integral respect in the decision-making processes.

"The problems that I see in our community today, I associate with the racism of this country - the displacement of men's and women's roles [due to] being forcibly assimilated into a white system where men have inherited belief systems and judgments towards women that are abusive and controlling.

Throughout her life, Marlene has also fostered a passion for blues music, which started when she first heard Ray Charles on the radio. It was a moment she remembers clearly.

"The first blues song that I ever heard was 'I Can't Stop Loving You' by Ray Charles. When I look back and think about it, that song made me decide that I wanted to be a Blues singer – I could feel it in my 'gut'.

"Ray was the only black performer being played at that time – the media didn't like playing 'raw' blues

- but Ray had an orchestra behind him which kind of 'whitewashed' his music to be more acceptable."

Marlene's father was a talented multi-instrumentalist, so being surrounded by good music fuelled her passion. Playing saxophone in various blues bands and hosting the program Marloo's Blues on Koori Radio kept her in touch with this passion. Now, after many years, she is excited to be releasing her own debut album, which is titled Koori Woman Blues

"I don't call myself a singer really. I'm not a Casey Donovan or Christine Anu. It's not about musical delivering a message that you

"This album has been a long process for me, it's quite personal. I felt a need to express my political beliefs through my music, but I also express my ability as a black person to laugh and to have fun through my music.



release of her debut album,

'Black Panther woman'

deadlyvibe.com.au

12 June through GoSet Music (gosetmusic.com) and iTunes.

The worldwide film premiere of Black Panther Woman (rated 18+) directed and produced by Rachel Perkins will screen as part of the Sydney Film Festival at 6.15pm on 12 June at Event Cinemas, George St, Sydney (tickets at sff.org.au). Marlene's album, Koori Woman Blues, will be released on

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Marlene Cummins is a political activist and a singer-songwriter. She is the focus of a documentary called *Black Panther Woman* that documents her involvement in the Black Panther Party of Australia's civil-rights movement of the 1960s.

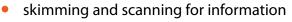
It tackles the issues of violence against women within the movement.

She has also recently released her debut blues album,

Koori Woman Blues.







- reading headings, text boxes and pictures
- reading for meaning
- making connections between the text and your world.

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Literal The answer is located in one sentence in the text.

Inferred You need to make links between sentences and graphics

(such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.

Applied The answer is in your background knowledge,

what you already know or feel.

What issues does the documentary *Black Panther Woman* explore? (inferred)



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2	Explain how the images support the text. (applied)	Write your answer on the lines.
3	What is the overall purpose for this text? (applied)	
4	Evaluate the effectiveness of this text in achieving its overall aims.	(applied)

ACTIVITY 2

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.
Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.



They were fighting for <u>constitushonal</u> rights.

It became their <u>headqarters</u> in Brisbane.





ACTIVITY 3

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - PUNCTUATION

Write these three sentences correctly, correcting spelling and adding the missing punctuation.

this albun has been a long process for me its quiet personal i felt a need to express my political beliefs threw my music said marlene cummins

Write your answer on the lines.

ACTIVITY 4

RESEARCH

1 Define the aims and objectives of the Black Panther Party of Australia.

2 Compare and contrast the American Black Panther Movement with Australia's Black Panther Party.

American Black Panther Movement	Black Panther Party of Australia

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