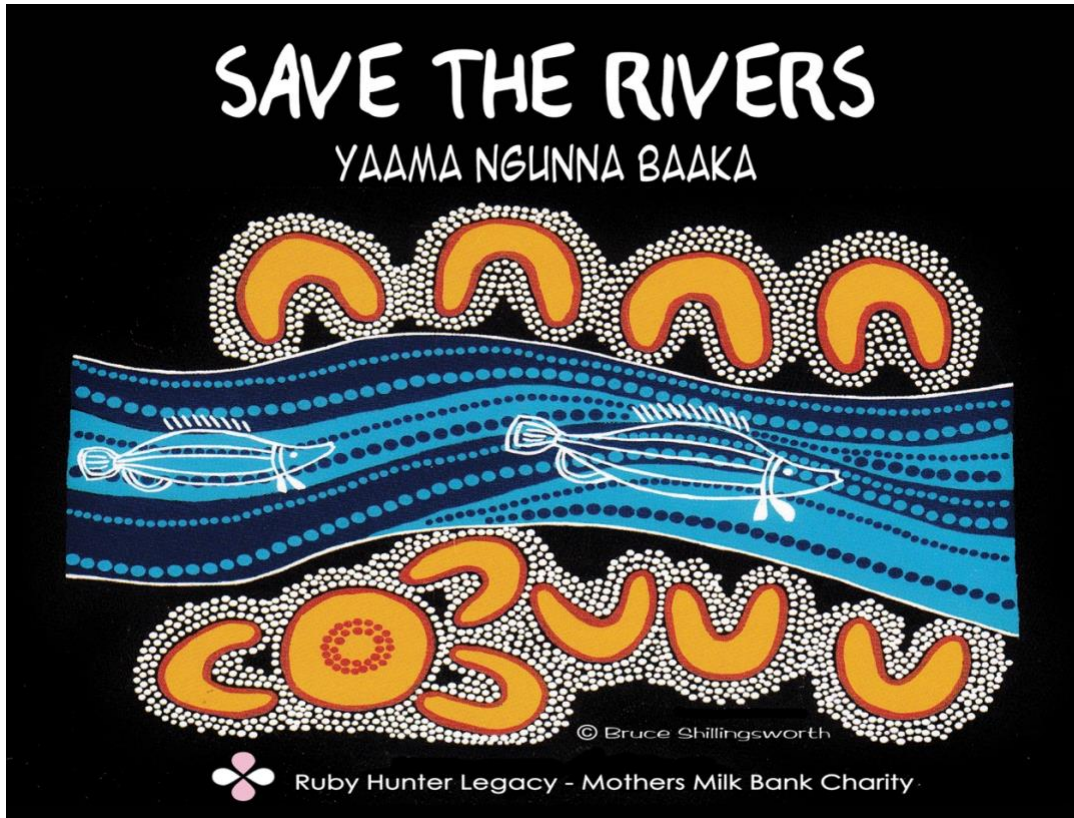


# SAVE THE RIVERS

(Yaama Ngunna Baaka)

©Marcia Howard, Nadia Sunde, Zardi O'Connell, John Sutton

The Ruby Hunter Legacy, Mothers' Milk Bank Charity



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**Featuring: Marcia Howard, Nadia Sunde, Zardi**

Contributors: Eleanor Clapham, John Sutton, Liam Gubbins, Isaac Barter

## **Acknowledgement:**

The Ruby Hunter Legacy, Mothers' Milk Bank Charity, acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The late Ruby Hunter was a Ngarrindjeri song writer, born on the banks of the Murray River in South Australia. She was a supporter of Marea Ryan and the work of the Mothers' Milk Bank Charity. Ruby wrote the book *Butcher Paper Black board and Chalk*. Together with her partner, Archie Roache, they travelled around Australia writing songs with community for this book.

The song **Save the Rivers** was written by long time Mothers' Milk Bank Ambassadors, **Marcia Howard (Goanna), Nadia Sunde, Zardi** and John Sutton at a song writing workshop at the Yaama Ngunna Baaka Corroboree Festival held

in October 2019 at Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Wilcannia and Menindee. The song honours the cultural work begun by Ruby Hunter.

**Dedication:**

We would like to thank Camellia Boney who inspired this song, Diane Whitaker, Virginia, Trish Shillingsworth and all the women of the Kamilaroi, Ngemba, Uakari, Murrawari, Wailwan, Yuwaalaraay, Wanggamurr and Barkindji nations for sharing their stories of Country with us.

We acknowledge and thank Marea Ryan, Kevin Condon, Professor Richard Banati, Val McGarry, Blanche De Winter, Oliver Threfall and Dr Jenny Brown.

**Artwork:**

Cover Art: ©Bruce Shillingsworth

With grateful thanks to **Bruce Shillingsworth** who put this remarkable YAAMA NGUNNA BAAKA **Corroboree Festival** together with the support of Dr Jenny Brown to let Australians come and witness for themselves the dire state of the rivers. We acknowledge and thank Bruce for the use of his artwork.

**Musicians:**

Thank you to the musicians who have generously donated their time and talent:

**Marcia Howard:** Lead vocals, acoustic guitar, piano, keyboards, percussion.

**Nadia Sunde:** Vocals

**Zardi:** Vocals

**John Sutton:** Nylon string guitar

**Eleanor Clapham:** Vocals

**Liam Gubbins:** Electric Guitar

**Isaac Barter:** Bass Guitar and Drums

**Produced by:**

Marcia Howard

**Engineered and mixed by:**

Isaac Barter, Geelong

Jeff Lovejoy, at Black Box studios in Brisbane

Liam Gubbins, House of Song Geelong

Eleanor Clapham, Sydney

**Graphic Design**

Kelly Simpson

**Publicist:**

Pure Communications, Blanche De Winter

**Film clip:**

Jessica Maurer

## **SAVE THE RIVERS** **(Yamma Ngunna Baaka)**

©Marcia Howard, Nadia Sunde, Zardi O'Connell, John Sutton, 2019

Save the Rivers  
Brothers and Sisters  
Are you listening  
Can you hear her cry  
We've got to pull together  
Stop the greed and the lies  
If we don't  
This Country dies  
If we don't we won't survive

No time for crying  
We've got to get strong  
The River has no voice  
And she's losing her song  
This Country's got a heartbeat  
Can you feel it now  
Come together and sing it loud

Save the Rivers  
Brothers and Sisters  
Are you listening  
Can you hear her cry  
We've got to pull together  
Stop the greed and the lies  
If we don't  
This Country dies  
If we don't we won't survive

Water is life  
Blood of our Mother Earth  
Water is life  
It connects us all  
We're singing up Country  
Bringing down the rain  
Let the Rivers  
Flow free again

Save the Rivers  
Brothers and Sisters  
Are you listening

Can you hear her cry  
We've got to pull together  
Stop the greed and the lies  
If we don't  
This Country dies  
If we don't we won't survive

**Solo**

*(Her teardrops fall on a dry river bed  
Where fish once swam there's only sand instead)*

This was a paradise now it's a living hell  
Give it back to the river the water you sell

Save the Rivers  
Brothers and Sisters  
Are you listening  
Can you hear her cry  
We've got to pull together  
Stop the greed and the lies  
If we don't  
This Country dies  
If we don't we won't survive.

Yaama Ngunna Baaka  
Yaama Ngunna Baaka  
Yaama Ngunna Baaka

**“Mother Earth is speaking, so our voices have got to be heard, not just here but right across the world.”**

Bruce Shillingsworth, YAAMA NGUNNA BAAKA, Corroboree Festival, Brewarrina October 2019.

**All proceeds from the sale of Save The Rivers (Yaama Ngunna Baaka) song will be donated to the Ruby Hunter Legacy, Mothers' Milk Bank Charity and the rivers.**



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