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## MEDIA RELEASE

17 April, 2014

### ***BUSBY MAROU TO PERFORM DROUGHT RELIEF CONCERT IN BIRDSVILLE***

Busby Marou, a Rockhampton-based country folk-pop duo whose single currently holds the number one spot for Australian country singles, will be performing in the iconic outback town of Birdsville in May. Between their recent performances at CMC Rocks the Hunter and their sold-out shows with James Blunt and Kasey Chambers, the duo, along with their band, have been invited to Birdsville to play a “lift the spirits of the outback” drought relief concert.

The much-publicised drought is affecting 90 per cent of Queensland, with the Diamantina Shire one of the worst-affected and first shires to be drought declared. In response, the Queensland State Government has made a significant amount of money available for events designed to ‘lift the spirits’ of the communities affected by drought. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services awarded the Diamantina Shire Council a grant as part of their Community Drought Support Funding, which will be used to fund the concert.

Diamantina Shire Mayor Geoff Morton says that the grant is appreciated by the isolated Diamantina Shire communities of Birdsville, Bedourie and Betoota, which are rarely given the opportunity to enjoy live music. “Being in such remote locations, there are only a couple of occasions annually when our residents have the opportunity to engage with live performers,” he says. “Therefore, we’re very excited to be able to host such a prominent and current band that appeals to a diverse audience.”

Mayor Morton says that the drought has strengthened the community spirit of the Diamantina Shire and, despite their adversity, residents should be able to celebrate. “Many families within our shire have been very adversely affected by the drought and this event will enable them to take their minds off their current woes and celebrate their resilience with our strong and supportive communities,” he says. “We hope that all Diamantina residents enjoy the show, and we also invite guests from our neighbouring shires, that have also been affected by the drought, to attend. I’m sure that Busby Marou will put on a great performance for us all.”

Originally from Rockhampton, Busby Marou are rising stars in the Australian music industry. Their debut album was nominated for APRA, Deadly, NIMA and Queensland Music awards. It also saw them touring with



artists as diverse as Birds Of Tokyo, Dolly Parton and The Zac Brown Band, as well as resulting in invitations to play at the American music industry's huge SXSW festival, Canadian Music Week, Bluesfest, Woodford Folk Festival and CMC Rocks The Hunter to name a few.

Their first single, *Biding My Time*, took out the APRA for 'Best Blues & Roots' song and came in at #81 on the 2012 Triple J Hottest 100. They also recorded the Cyndi Lauper classic *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* for 'Like a Version', which was voted in at #2 of the 'Like a Version' recordings that year.

Their second album, *Farewell Fitzroy*, was recorded in Nashville with one of the industry's most renowned producers and was released in October 2013 to great reviews, cementing their reputation in the international music industry as one of the most loved live bands to come out of Australia in recent times.

Tom Busby and Jeremy Marou are excited to be performing such a unique show. "We're incredibly proud of the new album," they say. "We can't wait to share it on stage in Birdsville."

Busby Marou will be joined on stage by special guests.

The FREE outdoor concert will be held on the Birdsville oval, opposite the famous Birdsville Hotel, on the evening of May 16, 2014.

## END

For Busby Marou interviews or further information, contact Diamantina Shire Council Events Coordinator Kelly Theobald on (07) 4656 3050 or email: [kelly.theobald@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:kelly.theobald@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

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