



### ***Jeremy Cloake Yidaki workshop tour 2008***

Jeremy Cloake is regarded by many as one of the worlds most innovative, powerful and accomplished non-aboriginal Yidaki players. He studied Yolngu Yidaki with master Yidaki players and makers in North East Arnhemland for 4 years.

Whilst living in Arnhemland, he worked at Buku Larrnggay Mulka art centre, primarily as a Yidaki specialist. Whilst there he won two prestigious awards from the Northern Territory Government on behalf of the arts centre. These awards recognised his work together with the Yidaki makers in developing the international Yidaki industry.

He also co-ordinated the Yidaki master-class at the annual Garma festival for 4 years ([www.garma.telstra.com](http://www.garma.telstra.com)) working closely with Yidaki master Djalu Gurruwiwi and the late Mr M. Mununggurr to deliver information to visitors from around the world.

Initially, the visitors who had come to Garma to learn to play Yidaki were confused as to how to mimic what Djalu and Mr Mununggurr played, the language, playing and teaching techniques were dramatically different to what the visitors were used to. To solve this issue, Jeremy worked together with Djalu, Mr Mununggurr and several Yolngu language experts to develop a language based system of teaching that involved translating Yolngu Yidaki vocal phrases into a phonetically written Yolngu Yidaki language. This involved acute listening to the articulatory phonetics of both the Yolngu Yidaki playing and the vocal phrases, then breaking up the rhythms into individual parts for teaching. This teaching process was introduced at the 2002 Yidaki master-class and was refined over the following years.

Jeremy advocates listening as being the most important skill in learning Yidaki as he believes it is like learning another language. He has an inherent skill with languages and is particularly interested in the languages of the Pacific Rim and their ethno-linguistic relationships.

Jeremy has been playing didgeridu since 1992 and teaching internationally since 2000. He is a talented multi-instrumentalist, music composer, performer and a skilled musical instrument maker. He tours regularly and has performed and delivered workshops throughout Europe and in Iceland, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

***"Understanding the origins of the didgeridu creates a solid foundation for further learning, naturally this is the first step, without a solid foundation nothing of any strength or integrity can be built." Jeremy Cloake***

## Workshop details

Jeremy is currently teaching 2 workshops, an introductory workshop and an advanced workshop.

His introductory workshop is suited for all levels of playing although it is beneficial to be competent with cyclic breathing. It is thorough and clearly delivered. Men and women of all skill levels are welcome. The duration of this workshop varies depending on what is most suitable for the group. The total duration is usually between 5 and 6 hours.

The advanced workshop is usually limited to people who have done the introductory workshop as the information builds on that. It is fast faced and very informative. Both men and women are welcome. The duration of this workshop varies depending on what is most suitable for the group. The total duration is usually between 4 and 5 hours.

Jeremy has an easy going nature and a reputation as a humble, patient and understanding individual. He creates an open and comfortable workshop space through his belief of equality. He accepts that all levels of playing are equal and explains that "we are simply at different points in our learning... that is all."

Jeremy shares the formula for his Yidaki playing style to make it easier for others to develop their own. He believes in giving people all the information they need to develop their own styles of Yidaki playing. The information he gives can be seen as a bridge between the non-aboriginal didjeridu world and the world of Yolngu Yidaki.

He has delivered numerous workshops throughout the world and the feedback has been very positive.

## Workshop Feedback

"For me the workshop was a rare opportunity to learn from someone who has actually lived at 'the source' and gained a lot of firsthand information from the masters and can explain it in a way that westerners understand. I am so happy I did the workshop. A lot of the information he delivered was from his personal experience. I enjoyed listening to his stories. The workshop was very beneficial for my playing and for expanding my knowledge about 'the truth' to this wonderful instrument. I highly recommend it to anybody interested in the didjeridu, whether you can play it or not!" - Geoff Budd, New Zealand.

"I can say without any hesitation that you are the best Yidaki / Didgeridoo teacher I have had the good fortune to learn from and your workshop was high excellence." Colin Goring, England.

"This is the most beneficial didjeridu workshop I have ever done - and I have done quite a few - it was a pleasure to learn from him, we had so much fun" - Kisyu Takahashi, Japan.

"His skills as a teacher are fantastic! He is clearly a gifted Yidaki player with a lot of knowledge who has developed a highly effective way of teaching. He is really easy going which helped me to feel relaxed. I feel that helped me to learn more easily" - Maryanne Watson, Australia.

"It is thanks to you, that I left the workshop totally inspired. This inspiration is still alive and it let me practice as often as it is possible. It was really refreshing that you did a lot of exercises with us - exercises that we somehow could manage. Your workshop was brilliant and it was a pleasure to have met you. Ka Pai and hopefully till next year. Best wishes" Hajo, Switzerland.

"I found the workshop was fantastic. Jeremy is a great teacher and things were explained well for all. Just listening to Jeremy playing right in front of you was a great experience. We were encouraged to make notes and not to record anything. This has worked fairly well for me, but it would be good if maybe you could produce a cd or dvd to go along with the workshop. Just so as you could check back on things to hear how it sounded and so on [Let me know if you ever do]. Nothing more constructive to add, just that the day was awesome, and I can't wait for the return visit. The one thing I found when I got home and played was that the workshop gave me a real shot in the arm and improvements in playing are happening. Cheers." Julian, England.

"I thought your workshop was one of the best I've done and if you come back to the UK again you could put me down for a place for sure. I would be interested if you even do a two-day workshop. I think the way you taught was brilliant and easy going. I also think your traditional playing was superb as you did not play that much when I first met you at Garma in 2004, I hope you come back to the UK." Dave White.

"As so often on workshops, there are always people who want to make an effort to record the proceedings.....and I was really pleased that Jeremy did not compromise in allowing people to do this. I have to say I find it irritating and that note taking is by far the best way of remembering the proceedings. As with so many other aspects of music, there is a huge spiritual thread woven delicately through the whole area. You can teach a dog to jump through a hoop and you can teach someone to play an instrument - a mechanical process that does not necessarily include feeling and awareness. I found Jeremy's sensitivity and awareness quite moving, his ability to show how the Aborigines in his experience speak and feel, a huge eye opener and deepened my appreciation of the instrument and the spirituality it embodies. The way the day was set out suited me fine, and the putting together of rhythms and sequence of rhythms a brilliant exercise. Three of us got together last Saturday to go through what we did - using my written notes !!!!!!! and it was a really good exercise. Improvements - well, I think it was just fine as it was. It is extraordinarily difficult having to put together a plan for a workshop, only to find that half have just learned which end to blow through and the other half have been playing for ages - in which case, the plan just goes out of the window. It was a great day, thank you." Andy Mapplebeck, England.

"Here's the workshop feedback: - THANK YOU!!! - My english isn't good enough to write a long mail. Your Workshop give me very much information, exercises and inspiration for the next weeks... (...months, ...years...). Greetings from Germany," Christian Falkenrich.



Jeremy Cloake pictured teaching in Tokyo, 2005



Pictured above, workshop in Germany 2007 and below, workshop in New Zealand 2006.



For workshop bookings visit [www.resonance.co.nz/jeremy-cloake-workshop-tour-2008.html](http://www.resonance.co.nz/jeremy-cloake-workshop-tour-2008.html)

