

TOPOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPOLOGY'S COMPOSERS BRING CREATIVE RELIEF AND POSITIVE IMPACT TO DROUGHT HARDENED REGIONAL TOWNS

In the lead-up to their extensive regional and national touring program for 2020, Aria nominated Topology, operating successfully out of Brisbane for 23-years, are set to act as cultural ambassadors bringing musical prowess and inspiration to three Queensland regional towns who have suffered during the drought.

Topology are established leaders in musical creativity in Australia, prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning music educators. John Babbage (saxophone) founding member and principal virtuoso musician and composer, is set to return with his unique expertise to Longreach (Showcase, April 4), Dalby (Creative and Backstage Boot Camp 26-28 June) and Texas (Creative Boot Camp June 30 – July 3) with a series of workshops, a 4-day creative bootcamp and community showcases and performances. The stories of Texas will be featured in the first instalment of a Topology produced episodic performance piece titled *Drought Stories* and will be performed at Water Up Late 2020 at the Gallery of Modern Art on Friday March 20. *Drought Stories* includes a micro-doc of conversations with Texas locals interviewed and produced by TheStoryBoxes creative house.

Topology have an energetic community engagement and education program called **Top Up**, and since 1998 they have worked closely with schools and communities to compose, mentor and perform with young people, emerging artists and the greater community. The State Award Winner for Excellence in Music Education at the APRA AMCOS Art Music Awards 2015, **Top Up** has grown exponentially over the years reaching thousands of participants across regional Australia each year. The primary goal of **Top Up** is to build the creative capacity of participants and to help reinvigorate much needed community based social events by binding and connecting with, in this instance, the people of Central

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West and South Western Queensland who have struggled with the effects of drought.

Top Up will bring together community partners from the communities of Texas and Dalby and the surrounding catchments in South Western Queensland, along with a similar creative program in Longreach, Central West Queensland. The participants will include school students and community groups who will work with Topology to collaboratively create a free community event celebrating their uniqueness along with the individual challenges that these townships face.

Top Up is an important opportunity to train the trainer and also provides participating individuals and established creative groups/organisations market-ready upskilling in order to self-determine projects successfully.

Topology affirms that regional artists are critical to a vibrant arts sector that reflects Australia's depth and diversity. Through Topology's strong commitment to educational programs, the creativity of music, enriches and empowers the individual human spirit in these regional communities who have borne the brunt of prolonged climate and on-flow economic hardships. The workshops and programs, accessible to all, are important avenues providing opportunities to harness how to bring creativity into the lives of individuals and the collective regional communities, who do not benefit from the enriched cultural programs that metropolises afford. Acting as a vital bridge for skills sharing from established renowned creative practitioners and educators, individuals and organisations are supported to reach full potential in order to establish and deliver successful creative ventures for themselves and their town. It is well documented that arts and the creative pursuits, broaden the mind and assist with individual and community well-being.

Announcing the commencement of the regional education program, Creative Director Christa Powell said, "We are committed to building on our past work in these exceptional rural communities. It is important to authentically work in regional towns as opposed to one-off, FIFO cultural events. Topology is committed to supporting and collaborating with cultural leaders and individuals in these towns for positive impact, in order for creative sustainable eco-systems to thrive."

Tambo resident Sandra Horan said, "I cannot begin to explain what Jaymee and a lot of other kids got out of the Boot Camp. The whole team were the absolute bomb. Topology were able to go beyond just teaching their skills and lead Jaymee to the point where Day 1, she was not doing anything other than perform

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her own song and come home with confidence. This is rare, trust me! We look forward to attending anything Topology hosts again in the future."

Longreach student Tinisha Jones said of her own past Boot Camp experience, "I liked working with Dave because he taught me a lot of new techniques I didn't know about videography. I liked filming Grant on the drums that was my favourite part of the Boot Camp and I can't wait to work with Topology in the near future. My takeaway is to never give up and keep on trying until you exceed."

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Topology is a Brisbane-based not for profit organisation, operating successfully for 23 years. Established in 1997, Topology are established leaders in musical creativity in Australia, prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning music educators. Nominated for a 2014 ARIA Award for Best Classical Album (Share House), Topology has a well-established reputation for their signature work. The quintet experiments with surprising combinations of music genres, theatrical staging and cross art form collaborations to create exciting, thought-provoking music experiences for audiences of all ages, backgrounds and tastes. Resident Artist at Brisbane Powerhouse for 18 years, Topology has released 15 albums, produced countless evening-length works, presented an award-winning concert series, and toured extensively nationally and internationally.

Topology's website <https://www.topologymusic.com/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

TOPOLOGY respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, and their Elders both past and present.

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