

COLLAB OF LOCAL LEGENDS In Breathtaking New Musical

One of our region's most celebrated musicians just happened to say during a concert that he'd love for his songs to be used in a musical.

One of our region's best-known theatrical producers just happened to be in the audience.

The rest, as they say, is history – or it soon will be.

Heading North, a one-hour tasteful musical featuring the music of Graeme Connors, will make its world premiere on Friday, 9 July at the Mackay Festival of Arts.

Producer and creator Joel Bow said he first saw Graeme Connors perform his album North at the MECC in 1988 with his parents.

"Thirty years later he (Connors) did

a 30th anniversary show, and I was there at the MECC again having a wonderful time when Graeme offhandedly said, 'I've always wanted to put my songs into a musical,'" Mr Bow said.

"Then he started playing A Little Further North Each Year, which is just breathtaking," he said.

"For me, it literally began then – the story of Heading North started happening."

Mr Bow said the story was a homage to the north, the fabulous upbringing he'd had here and the amazing regional community.

"It's not about Graeme, it's not about Joel – I'm just using these beautiful songs to weave a story we can all relate to," he said.

"It's an original story, set in the 60s on a North Queensland beach. These two fabulous families, who have never met each other, have neighbouring beach houses for the summer and it's about them growing up and having a great summer."

Excitement is already building, with subsequent shows on Saturday (July 10) and Sunday (July 11) selling fast.

And few ticket holders are as excited as the man behind the lyrics himself.

"On opening night, you can be sure the bloke with the beaming smile who is singing along with every song



Some of the creative team behind Heading North pictured at the 2021 Mackay Festival of Arts launch – from left: Lyn Connors, Mayor Greg Williamson, Graeme Connors, Samantha Munt (S.K Munt), James Munt, Joel Bow and Greg Sugden.

will be none other than me," Graeme Connors said.

Tickets for Heading North are available now online at themecc.com.au or from the box office.

- **Friday, July 9, Opening Night VIP Function 6.30pm / show 7.30pm**
- **Saturday, July 10, 2pm and 7.30pm**
- **Sunday, July 11, 2pm**