



Stylin youth take centre stage

A group of about 50 young people from across the Northern Rivers will perform at Queensland's Stylin Up Festival this coming Saturday.

Brought together by the Creative People's Collective, the United Nations of Hip Hop Crew will present a performance combining rap, hip hop dance and circus skills. After taking out first place at the festival's dance competition last year, they are now being featured on the main stage this year.

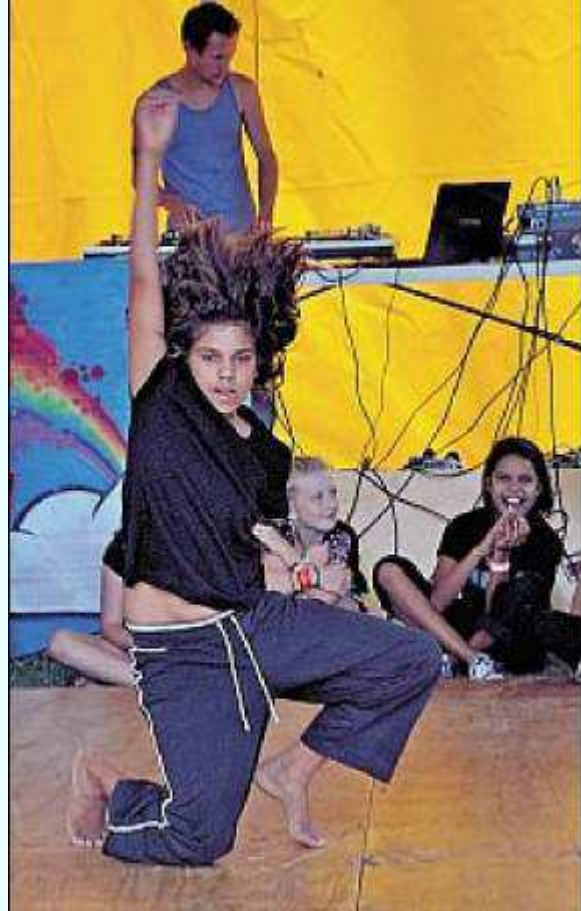
There are also two groups from within the crew who will be entering the competition and heaps of dancers who want to go in the solo freestyle battles.

"It's just a great opportunity for the young people to come together doing something they love, and being part of something massive like Stylin Up really helps develop

their confidence and gets them to dream big," Phoebe Mitai said. She has been teaching many of the young people and will be performing with her crew ICU (Illest Crew Unleashed).

The United Nations of Hip Hop Crew has members from Coraki, Lismore, Alstonville, Mullumbimby, Federal and Yamba. Phoebe said projects like this also unite the organisations that help support opportunities for youth in the region. Funding from Beyond Empathy and transport from YOWI had made it possible, as well as support from NORTEC, Clarence Valley Council and Youth Connections.

"The community support has made it possible to assist our volunteers with travel, make costumes and feed the many hungry mouths after they dance hard at this major festival." Phoebe said.



Elsie Smith of Yamba at last year's Stylin Up festival.