Transcript Movements & Sounds Podcast with Jayden Kitchener-Waters

Charlotte 00:00
Hi and welcome to *Movements & Sounds*, a podcast focussing on contemporary Indigenous musics and sounds in Australia, and issues related to this topic. Thanks so much for listening to *Movements & Sounds.* I'm Charlotte, the facilitator of this podcast. It is important to know that I am a non-Indigenous person. However, I support decolonisation, and giving land back to Indigenous Peoples.

Today, I'm coming at you from the land of the Gadigal people of Eora nation and acknowledge that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land. I'm in conversation with Jayden. Jayden is a Gomeroi man living in Tamworth, and he plays guitar and sings, which is how we met as he performed during a NAIDOC event a few weeks ago. So welcome Jayden. When, when we met, you told me that you wouldn't actually say that you're a musician. So what's, what do you usually do, as a profession?

Jayden 01:05
So I work, I do language and culture revitalization here in Tamworth and work really hard with the New South Wales, AECG to work in schools and with community to, yeah, bring back our language and culture that was taken away from us. But obviously, you know, you met me when I was playing guitar. So I do that as a bit of a side hobby. But I wouldn't call myself a muso as such.

Charlotte 01:32
Right? Can you tell me a little bit more about your work? Like, what is your day? What do you days? What are your days looking like?

Jayden 01:41
Yeah, um, day to day, when I'm not in meetings, I'm in the classroom. I'm in the schools working directly with the kids. I'm teaching them language and culture. And a lot of it's in the classroom, going through language, but I love going for walks outside with the kids talking about words on Country and teaching them songs and dance as well as a way of teaching language. But yeah, a lot of it's a lot of my work. And the main thing that I enjoy is just spending time with with young people sharing Gomeroi language and culture. And yeah, that's really what my passion is, in every couple of days, Tuesdays and Thursdays, we actually run a free community language lessons as well, which is, started recently. So that's another little side project that, yeah, fills my spirit. Good seeing community get around it.

Charlotte 02:32
Amazing. And the community lessons are outside the school are they for? Is that right? Am I. Am I getting that right?

Jayden 02:40
Yeah, outside of school yeah, yeah. So yeah. And we've only just recently started. So we're still trying to get numbers. But everyone that has turned up, there's been massive, massive progression in their language learning. So it's been really good. And the cool thing is, which has been a big thought of

mine for the last, you know, few months around language and how people should be learning is our young people in the schools are learning the same thing as a people in the community lessons. So there's a lot of reasons why I love that. But the main one is because you know, they're learning the same thing at the same rate most of the time. So when kids can go home back to their parents, they can they can all be talking in the same language learning the same thing. So that's been really good.

Charlotte 03:30
That is amazing. And have you had that certain that that sort of feedback like that kids and parents that they tell you that they actually speak the language now at home?

Jayden 03:38
Yeah. Not not yet again, because we're just getting started. But it's always been a huge conversation, in community, or in that language space around, there's always been a lot of funding and focus put into language and culture programs within the schools. But when it comes to community there, there hasn't been as much focus and funding, put in for community language lessons. So that's where in the past couple years department of education have helped out with with more community language programs. So yeah, it's good that we're sort of fulfilling that.

Charlotte 04:19
Yeah. Yeah, for sure. And you said you sometimes teach through song and dance. Can you tell a little bit? Like specifically, do you have an example like, what then happens? Where do you go? What do you do? What what is? What are the songs and what are the dances? How does that work?

Jayden 04:36
Yeah um, so I've been lucky enough to grow up in a really culturally strong family. And I say lucky because I know that a lot of Indigenous families are disconnected and at no fault of their own, purely from from past policies. But yeah, I've been really lucky to grow up in a family that's been culturally grounded. And I've been given a bit of knowledge around that. which has been really good. So when I talk about that cultural knowledge, I mean, I grew up from a very young age, just dancing, traditional dances and trying to do traditional songs and stuff. So when I do teach kids dances, I'm teaching them most of the time, songs and dances that I grew up doing. So we, you know, the kids love it, the kids love it for a starter. But you know, pretty much every language lesson that I do, the kids are going, “are we going outside for a dance today?” And I feel really disappointed sometimes because I can't take them outside every week. But the days that we do, we just go out onto the grass. Sit around in a circle, have a bit of a yarn first. You know, start with a check in with everyone's going tell everyone to relax. We're out on Country now. take our shoes off. And then yeah, then we will get into the dances. So that's pretty cool. And I actually just today, I was over at one of the local high schools, teaching them one of one of the songs that I had come up with, in traditional language. So yeah, it's good. Feels more spirit.

Charlotte 06:06
Yeah. Wow. And you, you just said a song that you come up with. So you write your own songs in language, do you?

Jayden 06:12

Yeah, yeah. I write, I write some contemporary ones. With that just sit around with my guitar. And half the time, that's just me, starting with a little melody, and then I let go, that would sound pretty, that little bit of language would sound pretty there. But going back to growing up, you know, culturally, I grew up with a lot of surrounded by a lot of traditional songs and dances. So I also try to make some traditional songs as well. Just with some clap sticks, and voice.

Charlotte 06:46
Yeah yeah. Right. So you sort of distinguish between the more traditional side of things where you use clap sticks, voice. And then more contemporary, where you use your guitar? Guitar? Yeah, yeah, exactly. And what would the songs be about?

Jayden 07:02
So the contemporary ones, I've always loved songwriting. And for some reason, I always go back to writing little love songs. So yeah, the contemporary ones with the guitar are love songs or just day to day stuff. But you know, the songs that I try to write in that more traditional style, are more going towards walking on Country and stuff about learning on Country. And I've got one about the dinnawan, which is our emu, and the barrgay, which is the name for the emu chicks. And it's just about the emu chicks walking on Country with their father learning about their country. And yeah, that's where those more contemporary ones differ from the traditional ones, I guess, for me personally,

Charlotte 07:50
Yeah, and that's important to you to distinguish those?

Jayden 07:56
Um, that's another hard conversation, I guess. I think we can never really, I use, I use the word contemporarily. Contemporary very loosely, I think like, something can never be really contemporary if you're using traditional language. But yeah, I like to distinguish the two. I've got my songs that I play on guitar. And then I've got my traditional ones. And one of my uncles is doing a PhD in revitalizing language through songs and traditional songs. And that's something we talk about a fair bit is yeah, how them old traditional styles of singing are really different to more contemporary style.

Charlotte 08:41
Yeah, of course, who taught you the language? The songs, the dances?

Jayden 08:48
All my uncles. All my uncles. Yeah, again, I grew up dancing with the Gomeroi Dance Company. And I'm, I'm still involved with them. And that's a pretty cool thing, I think. Yeah, ever since I was young, growing up, just learning the dances and a lot of it was just the way I would learn and this is the way I think you should be learning is, I just grew up watching them. And then one day, it was sort of, "I might go dance, can I dance with you guys?" Or they invite me "do you want to come dance with us?" And I was like, "Yeah, okay." And there was never really a formal process of here's this move, then you do this move. It was purely from just watching for so long and listening for so long and learning that way. And it's really encouraging to see my little nephews doing the exact same thing, we've never really gone through moves with them. But just from watching us dance or watching us

do our performances on YouTube and stuff. They're able to learn the songs and dances which I think is really cool.

Charlotte 09:50
That is cool. Yeah. And so, you record your your songs and you put them on YouTube? Do I get that right?

Jayden 09:59
No we don't do it. They're on YouTube from other, other events.

Charlotte 10:04
Oh, it just like, yeah. In general you meant.

Jayden 10:07
Different events, they might record them and just post them. Which is really cool.

Charlotte 10:11
Yeah, yeah, for sure. So I'm wondering, as well, a self-proclaimed non-musician, I think you're a musician. How did you end up performing at the NAIDOC event that we met at?

Jayden 10:26
Yeah. That was kind of cool. It was kind of cool that.. So a few years ago, I performed at the Nura Gili awards night, which is the UNSW Indigenous center's, their awards night with Keely Cain, who performed with me at NAIDOC as well. She's actually my cousin, which is pretty cool. So we performed there a little while ago. And I remember a couple weeks before NAIDOC, Dakota Jericho from UNSW, he reached out to me, and one of the fellas reached out to me and said, "Hey, would you be able to perform at the NAIDOC event?" And I was like, "Ah, I don't know if I've got the confidence for that." But yeah, that's sort of how that ended up. And then I obviously got on to Joelle and Arc and said, "Okay, I'll come down and do that." So, it was really good timing, because I was going down anyway to perform in the corroboree, which was earlier in the day. Yeah. So went down with Gurrawin the, the organization that provided that corroboree and went down and danced with my uncles, and cousins and family, and did that dance. And then yeah, went over and sang a few songs, and it was good, that's how that came about.

Charlotte 11:44
Amazing what a day for you. And how, like, what was it like for you to play during this years' NAIDOC week, in general?

Jayden 11:56
Um, it was, it was really nerve wracking. For a starter, I was really nervous. And I've always been a bit shy around my music. I've always written stuff and just played with family. But when it comes to performing, I've sort of shied away from that. But in the past, from the start of this year, I guess I've really wanted to grab life by the horns, I guess, and really try and have a go at everything and experience everything. So when the opportunity came up, obviously, I was nervous. But I also thought to myself, "Hey, you made a promise to yourself that you're going to give life a red hot crack,

why not just go and do a little music performance." And it was really cool, because everyone that I've danced with my, my cousins and family and my uncles actually stayed around. So they were there, and they watch my performance. And my beautiful grandmother who was working in Sydney at the time. So she was there as well and a front row going out. And yeah, that was probably the most special thing being able to perform in front of my friends and family. Especially all my friends that that are at UNSW that I hadn't seen in a in a fair while. So yeah, it was good.

Charlotte 13:11
Yeah, right. And, so this was the first time you engaged with the dance group as well was just like a one off thing, or do you do that more regularly?

Jayden 13:21
Nah. So the fellas that I dance with. Like, Gurrawin is ran is a company ran by my uncles and cousins and stuff. So I've been dancing with those guys for ages. Which was really cool. Yeah. Yeah, I absolutely loved it. But yeah, I've been I've been dancing with those guys for ages. So it was good to dance back at UNSW. Again.

Charlotte 13:51
Yeah, does it, does it hold? Like a significance to you? Is it important? Is it an important part of you? Did you actually did you attend to UNSW? Yourself?

Jayden 14:00
Yeah. So after school, I went straight to UNSW. Should we get into that now?

Charlotte 14:05
Yeah, let's get into it.

Jayden 14:10
Yes, right after school, I went to UNSW. Started there in 2019. And UNSW holds a really big place in my heart because I changed so much there. Living in college, and living on campus and meeting so many different people from so many different backgrounds, and especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from many diverse backgrounds was yeah, really life changing for me and and shaped me into who I am. I think those couple years at UNSW were the most transforming for me in my whole life. So it holds a really special place in my heart and I've got a lot of really solid friends there. And that meant a lot to me, so.

Charlotte 15:00
Yeah amazing. Yeah. Yeah. And so even though you, you just told me you grew up with a strong connection, but still meeting other Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people? How was that important to you during your university time?

Jayden 15:17
Yeah, language and culture and dance, as always kept me grounded, I think. And so that was one of the big things while I was at UNSW. Whenever I'd be stressed about anything, or be worried about assessments and stuff, I always had a really solid base to go back to and that was my culture and

living through cultural values. And it was really important to meet other Indigenous peoples that are a had similar upbringings. And were raised in strong culture, but also, it was really interesting to meet Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that were a bit more disconnected and didn't quite have that connection. And that was sometimes really tough for me to see. You know, I felt, firstly really emotional and sad for for them for not being able to hold that connection. And especially sad for their, for their old people, their ancestors that, you know, would have had that taken away from them. So, I feel really sad, but I think that was also really good opportunity to just share what I could with them. And and whenever I was doing dances or or stuff, just invite them along and to learn, which was cool. You know, the NAIDOC event, where my uncles and stuff came down to the corroboree, that wasn't the first time that my uncles had come to UNSW to dance. I'd actually invited them a couple NAIDOCs before as well when I was at college. So whenever they came, I'd come and dance with them, and also made sure I told any other Indigenous people that were at college, “hey, we're going to have a dance here. Do you want to come and be involved?” And even if they didn't want to get painted up and dance, I think it's still important that they felt that space was open, and that they felt connected. So yeah, if that makes sense.

Charlotte 17:11
For sure. I mean, it sounds like you almost had a bit of a mentoring role is that? Did you?

Jayden 17:18
Not officially, I wouldn't say mentoring role. I was just, I was trying to make sure that my brothers and sisters at uni and college were.. Felt like they really had something to hold on to I guess.

Charlotte 17:35
Yeah, yeah. Right. What did you actually study when you were there?

Jayden 17:39
I studied Bachelor of Social Research and Policy, majoring in Indigenous Studies. And going back to what we were saying before Dobby was actually one of my lecturers in my first year of college. So that was really cool to have him there.

Charlotte 17:55
Yeah, I imagine you learned a lot from him.

Jayden 17:59
Yeah, I learned a bit. But I haven't actually finished my uni degree. I deferred, middle of last year, and in that, you know, around the same time as COVID and there were a lot of things happening and and a job opportunity came up here at home to do what I'm doing now working in schools and community revitalizing Gomeroi language and culture. And I. Yeah, that was that was really important for me. So yeah, I moved back home, but I will go back and finish uni because my grandmother told me if I don't, she'll be very mad.

Charlotte 18:33
Yeah, maybe you could even do a remote sort of situation. Now that's an option.

Jayden 18:39
Yeah, it's an option now, so that'd be good. I've yarned with some people from Nura Gili, who've been pretty supportive of me while I've been away. So that's something I'm working on. But I'll get back to it.

Charlotte 18:49
Yeah. Oh, that's great. And yeah, so you said your, your nan was was watching you performing? Did you say she lives in Sydney?

Jayden 19:00
She's.. Nan lives in Tamworth. But she's always in Sydney, working there. She's pretty, pretty important down that way.

Charlotte 19:09
Yeah. Right. And you told me that you often travel to the to the city as well yourself. What is your connection to this, this place, to Sydney?

Jayden 19:21
Especially at university, Sydney really changed me and shaped me into who I am. But before before I went to uni, I actually went to boarding school. At Barker College, which is in Hornsby in North Sydney there, the boarding school there for three years from 2016 to 2018. What's that? 16, 17, 18. Yeah, that's three years, had to do the the math. So I went to boarding school. And yeah, that's sort of where the connection to Sydney started. And then it was really interesting when when I was at boarding school, I often struggled with homesickness, and always, always will I've wanted to go back home and go spend time back on Country. But when I went to uni, you know, 2020 2019 2020 and early 2021, that sort of left. And I felt like I really, I felt way more at home in Sydney. And I really felt like that was my home and where I needed to be. So, yeah, I often think about that massive change from being really homesick into just wanting to be in Sydney. Because I'd feel I'd feel homesick for Sydney whenever I went home. So that was really, really interesting. For me.

Charlotte 20:32
It's become your your home away from home. Really?

Jayden 20:35
Yeah. And even now, I miss it. I'm settling really well into Tamworth and I love being back on my Country. That's a big one. Back on my Country and learning about my country from my uncles and stuff. So it's it's good, but I still. Yeah, a part of me is still left in Sydney, I think. Yeah. Down there on Coogee beach somewhere.

Charlotte 20:57
Close to UNSW. Yeah, that makes sense. And I also noticed during the corroboree, that day, it mainly was a group of men, I think, there was only one one or two girls, maybe? Is there a reason for that?

Jayden 21:13

I'm not sure. I think I'll still I'll talk a bit about the Gomeroi dance company around around that. The Gomeroi dance company was started up here in Tamworth, by a group of, of young men who happen to be my uncles and stuff, and through kinship, my father and fathers and stuff. So that was started by a group of fellas. And for years, for years, it was just a group of men rocking up and dancing and performing. And they did a lot for the community up here. And they traveled all around Australia performing and sharing culture and sort of when I moved home, that was.. Not sure if issue is the right word. But that was something that I sort of saw and thought, “Hey, where's all the.. Where's all the young girls at, where the girls at?” So now, while I'm dancing with the Gomeroi dance company, and us young fellas are sort of taking the reins a bit. In terms of performing and stuff. We have young Gomeroi girls also performing and dancing with us, which is really cool. So yeah, and I think that's just going to be a built-on effect, a bit of a domino effect is young, Indigenous girls are going to see these girls dancing and think, “hey, that's something I want to be a part of, I'm going to do that as well.” So I think for a while there, when it was just men dancing. A lot of young girls might have seen that and thought, oh, maybe that's just something that the men do, maybe, maybe that's somebody else. But I think now that we've got some girls dancing with the Gomeroi Dance Company, and, and right across in a lot of different Aboriginal dance companies, you can see more and more girls popping up. I think young, young Indigenous women especially are going to benefit from that and, and that'll be something for them to aspire to. So which is really exciting. Really exciting.

Charlotte 23:04
Definitely. Yeah, so you wouldn't say traditionally those type of dances you did, were targeted to or were like, specifically to be performed by men? It's that was there's no gender connected to that?

Jayden 23:17
No, and and this is a tricky one because I need to do more research on it. But from what I've seen, you know, a lot of men dance, a lot of women dance as well. So.

Charlotte 23:27
Yeah, for sure. Yeah, amazing. Um, you just said you're still you're still learning a lot from from uncles from, you know, living on Country. Do you do for example, you go to the community center yourself? Or how does that, when you say “I'm still learning” how does that learning take place?

Jayden 23:47
Yeah, always learning I think you’ll always learn until you die. But you know, a lot of my learning is just done on Country. You know, I might message my uncles or or regularly meet up with them every now and then and we'll spend time in the bush sit in the bush and I'll learn from them. But the big thing that that I've been taught is, you can learn from people, you can learn from your uncles you can learn from the Elders, but the best teacher to learn from is Country and to learn from mother nature and just sit in the bush and listen to the bush. That's a that's the best teacher. So that's something that I've really embraced, especially as I've moved back on Country and can spend more time on Country. Yeah, I love spending time just sitting in the bush and just just listening. But yeah, I one of my uncles up here is really big in language. So I spend a bit of time with him just learning, learning a bit more stuff in language and just a little, the little things he always chucks a little phrase at me or this little saying, and he's like, “Have you heard that before?” And I'm like, “No, never.” And yeah,

those little moments are pretty cool. But yeah, a lot of a lot of the learning from them fellas is is out in the bush out on Country. It's good. Yeah.

Charlotte 25:06
And are there particular like, what are the sort of, would you say main points of focus? I don't know that sounds very formal. But you know what I mean. Like, what are the main points of focus? What do you usually? Yeah, sort of focus on, yourself, for example, when you go sit in the bush, can you give an example?

Jayden 25:26
I think, in a nutshell, just how to live, just how to live. And, yeah, we get taught how to live through our cultural values, we need to live with with humility, live with respect, need to be patient. All those sort of cultural values are the main main points of call, I think. And as I said, before, you know, I would have really struggled living in Sydney, living off Country if I hadn't had the knowledge around the cultural values and stuff to ground me.

Charlotte 26:00
Yeah. Would you say that was a big difference for you, in terms of you know, Tamworth is obviously a bit more rural, compared to the big city of Sydney, did you feel a difference in that, by like living around less nature? Or would you say that actually wasn't a thing.

Jayden 26:20
I think it definitely was, you know, wherever we go, whether it be in the middle of Sydney, in a big high rise building or in the bush, we're always on Country. We're always on Aboriginal land. And we're always surrounded by our old people. But I think I struggled with a bit being surrounded by by buildings, and just being surrounded by concrete. And that's why I'm happy now I can just drive five minutes down the road, and I'm in the bush. But while I was in Sydney, a big place of connection for me was just the beach. So I grew up around the beach, up in Coffs Harbour, but yeah massive connection for me was just going down to Coogee beach or going down to La Perouse and just going for a swim. Sometimes in the middle of winter. When I was struggling, I needed to go down there and just have a swim and shock the system a bit in. My dad often talks about salt water medicine, and just the water and the waves washing over your being a place of comfort and yeah, and medicine, and that's something that I really embraced while I was living down there. I was always at the beach. It was good.

Charlotte 27:28
Yeah. So it really helped you in terms of..

Jayden 27:32
Yeah, 100% and it did help that Coogee was one of the prettiest beaches I reckon in New South Wales.

Charlotte 27:37

Yeah, amazing. Very lucky to have a campus near that, that area. Yeah. Okay. Now you're in Tamworth, and it's sort of known for its country music festival. Yeah, that's the first thing, at least, that I that I connect it to. I'm assuming you've been, have you?

Jayden 27:55
Ah, mate.. Mate.. I love country music. I love country music.

Charlotte 28:00
How do you usually experience this festival?

Jayden 28:04
Ever since I was young, I've gone to the Country Music Festival every year. And whenever I couldn't go, I was always just really upset that I couldn't be there. But I love everything about country music festival and country music in general. And a few years ago, there was actually, during the Country Music Festival, there was this thing called the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase that was run by local Aboriginal community. And that was for young Aboriginal artists, up and coming, just to come and showcase their talent. So we'd have young people from the Tamworth area and you know, right around New South Wales, we'd have people like Troy Cassar-Daley come and sing, or Johnny, Uncle Johnny Huckle or, you know, people from all over, even famous blakfellas come and perform at this little Aboriginal Cultural Showcase. So that was a really big part of my identity growing up as well, is looking forward to every country music festival, obviously the big country music festival, but also the Aboriginal Cultural Showcase, which was massive, and the Gomeroi dance company would perform at that every year.

Charlotte 29:10
Amazing. So you've performed there yourself?

Jayden 29:13
Yeah, performed there, yeah. And with them. Yeah. And my great grandmother when she was here, she'd always do the Welcome to Country and my great grandfather as well. So yeah, it was really it was a really special time for, for community to just come together and celebrate our culture through music. Yeah.

Charlotte 29:32
Amazing. And how would you say that the music you've listened to influenced what you now play yourself?

Jayden 29:39
Ah anything with a guitar I love I think.

Charlotte 29:42
That's the country influence isn't is?

Jayden 29:45

Yeah, that country sort of folk music and I growing up, adoring you know, Troy Cassar-Daley, Uncle Archie Roach. Paul Kelly, you know, all these beautiful songwriters. I've always loved you know, and yeah, I think that's had a massive influence on me and how much I love not just playing guitar and sitting down and jamming with my family but, trying to write something that's really beautiful and meaningful. Yeah, those sort of artists had a massive influence on me and more locally, Uncle Roger Knox, a massive, massive country artist. The Black Elvis, they call him. Yeah, songs of, always growing up around songs that are beautifully written and songs of survival and strength, has had a massive influence on me. Yeah.

Charlotte 30:34
Yeah. I was going to ask, because, it's funny you mentioned Paul Kelly, at the NAIDOC event you played From Little Things Big Things Grow, of course, yeah, it's been covered by the Getup Mob later. And then now Ziggy Ramo, again, together with Paul Kelly. Can you tell a little bit what this song means for you? And why did you choose this song?

Jayden 30:57
Bit emotional, like it's a really emotional song, I guess. Like, I think the big. The big thing around that song is it's just a song of survival and great strength. It's a song about standing up against what against what's wrong for what's right. And I think it's a really beautiful song about reconciliation, people coming together and not Indigenous peoples. You know, I don't know how to explain it. It's not a song about blakfellas. I'm gonna, I'm gonna say this really informally. Yeah, it's not a song about blackfellas going to meet whitefellas on their side of the fence. It's actually about whitefellas coming over and on our side for once. And yeah, I love that song. And I performed it. Well, number one, because I really wanted to perform predominantly songs written or sang or performed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. But also just because it's a beautiful song. It's a song of, of great resistance and strength, but it's also just beautifully written. I love the melody of it. I love the continuity of it. I love how simple but sophisticated the song is. Yeah, it's a good one.

Charlotte 32:09
Yeah. And what do you mean with like, whitefellas meeting blackfellas for once? Like, what in the song? Would you say? Is it Paul Kelly himself? Or is it like?

Jayden 32:21
I think it's literally the Prime Minister rocking up on Country and handing back Country back to them old people. Handing Country back to those blackfellas. It wasn't this big, you know, Vincent Lingiari arrives in Canberra and signs these papers and stuff. It was actually, you know, the government rocking up on their Country, and giving their land back.

Charlotte 32:45
Yeah, quite naturally, with the sand the very, very, like, iconic photo yeah, yeah, yeah. Sort of, in that line of thoughts. Do you engage in Indigenous rights activism? I guess your work is very, it's in a way, sort of activism. But. But yeah, can you, what do you what do you think about that? Like, do you engage? Or what's your relationship?

Jayden 33:10

I guess, whenever I can, can turn up to protests and marches. I turn up to them. And it was really cool. When I was living in Sydney, that was something that did happen a fair bit. Because there were so many Indigenous people living down there. There was also always some great opportunities to all get together and protest in March and stand up for what's right. So there was a lot of that down there. And so I rocked up to those. But you know, as you sort of just alluded to, my work every single day is a form of protest, form of protest against non-Indigenous people, or policies in the past that have told us that our language that our dances, our culture, our story isn't valued, and isn't any more relevant. So yeah, I sort of protests that every day. And it's really encouraging to see so many young people, especially a lot of non-Indigenous people really engaging in it, as well. Yeah, it's cool. Yeah, whenever I could turn up to a protest or a March, when I was living in Sydney, I'd always I'd always attend. Yeah.

Charlotte 34:16
And what would you say is the most important or like one of the key messages that music could bring across as well, when it comes to protest or Indigenous rights or activism in general?

Jayden 34:30
It's just a way to put a message across beautifully. I think, that sort of, and I say this, again, because of my influence from fellas like Paul Kelly and Uncle Archie Roach. I know there's a lot of songs out there from Indigenous artists that are a bit more hardcore, and I love those as well. Like, don't get me wrong, but I think when it comes to those more beautiful songs of protests, I think that's what what I hold pretty important. I think that to be able to come conveying a message through songwriting and through an art is pretty, pretty powerful. It's hard to explain because I think you could say, the same message through a speech and in a song. And they'd have two completely different meanings, which, which is pretty beautiful. And that's the power of music, I guess.

Charlotte 35:19
What are your favorite artists to listen to? At the moment?

Jayden 35:24
At the moment? I'll have to go look through my Spotify but, the past couple of weeks has been obviously since the passing of Uncle Archie Roach, he's sort of played a big role. Yeah, he's on repeat at the moment. But also just a lot of those old country music singers, old country, loving it.

Charlotte 35:43
And you wearing the King Stingray cap.

Jayden 35:45
King Stingray, yeah they're there as well. Let's not forget King Stingray, they're killing it, they're killing it. I really want to go see them live. And not and then also, I mean, I'm a massive Gang of Youths fan. Not sure if you heard of them, but I hope you have. Oh, man. When I talked about Sydney, transforming me, and this is a bit daggy I think. But when I talked about Sydney transforming me, Gang of Youths, and their music was a massive part of that. I mean, I've got their old logo tattooed behind my ear, I think there... Yeah, Gang of Youths is by far my favorite band ever.

Charlotte 36:24
What about them?

Jayden 36:25
I don't know, they gave me a warm hug when I needed one is probably the best way to find it is when I was living in college. And never I deal with anything or struggle with anything I just put on their album. And the way that Dave Le'aupepe, their songwriter and lead singer, the way that he writes is so beautiful. And again, he's sort of had a pretty big influence on me as well with their music in terms of writing beautiful stuff and writing poetry and transforming that into music. So, but yeah, they're like a warm hug for me, I think. I always go back to them whenever I'm feeling stressed. Or, or lonely or anything.

Charlotte 37:05
Have you, yourself, actually performed since NAIDOC? Or will you?

Jayden 37:11
I will, I will. I'll get around to it. Still trying to find time, I think, trying to find time to one perform, but also get back in the studio and really perfect these these few songs. Looking forward to getting an EP out, soonish.

Charlotte 37:29
Oh that'd be amazing. Yeah, is something.. Are songs of you already somewhere out? Or have you been keeping them from the world?

Jayden 37:40
Keeping them. They're.. They're all in. They're all on Messenger with my with my cousins and family. "What do you think of this? How does this sound? And should I do this here?" But that's about it.

Charlotte 37:51
Yeah, yeah. Right. Well, I'm looking forward to it.

Jayden 37:54
I'll send it through. Yeah. I think there's a lot of power now in Indigenous songwriters singing with Indigenous lyrics, singing songs and writing songs in their traditional language. And it's becoming more and more popular, and it's becoming more and more special. And I think that's something that everyone needs to keep an eye out for, I guess, there's going to be more and more indigenous songs written by indigenous people in their languages coming out and I think that's only going to benefit all of Australia. I get really emotional listening to Gurrumul singing in his language, you know, just I know, there's a lot of beauty and comfort, hearing traditional languages. And, you know, the main people that are going to benefit are our young people, young blackfellas, hearing their languages, hearing their songs and stories, and growing up around it and going, "Hey, our languages that are important. We are important." So I think that's pretty cool.

Charlotte 38:56

That is amazing. Thank you so much for coming to have a chat with me! Thanks for listening to movements and sounds. This is a not-for-profit podcast. However, thanks to the SOAS student enterprise fund, for every episode a donation will be made to save them up and Indigenous-led organization in Australia fighting for climate justice. Find out more about this incredible organization on seedmob.org.au. See you at the next episode!