Yidaki (Didgeridoo) Music

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by Daru Salam

Local Ballardong musician Daru Salam can be seen and heard playing the Yidaki or Didgeridoo, recorded in 2025 beside the Golgulyar Bilya (Avon River).

It is a wind instrument, played using a special breathing technique called circular breathing to produce a continuous tone without interruption. This is accomplished by inhaling through the nose while simultaneously pushing air stored in the cheeks out through the mouth.

Daru is a self taught player – he says "I decided to learn during the Covid lockdown and practised for six hours a day to master the circular breathing, which is a difficult skill, combining mental control and physical training, especially of the muscles of your diaphragm and cheeks".

Daru makes and paints his own instruments, selecting branches of native wood hollowed by termites and choosing the length to produce the key he wants. Longer instruments produce slower notes, whilst shorter ones are faster. He plays at music concerts, cultural events and for his own enjoyment.