



Dance troupe members Mariah Briggs, Reese and Brandi Salmon, Carly Shepherd, Jacinta Kelly and Tiannen Hall-Parrott.

Picture: TANYA FRY. N31F5430

Artists celebrate heritage, survival

AUSTRALIA Day is a day for celebrating our heritage.

The Aboriginal Corporation for Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Indigenous Artists - also known as Baluk Arts - will pay homage to their ancestors and the survival of their culture with the second annual Survival Day picnic.

Featuring indigenous performers such as Lady Lash, Allyson and Luke Walker, Dickie

Bedford, Peter Rotumah, Larry Walsh, Nola Lauch and local Baluk dancers, the picnic is at Frankston foreshore from 11am-3pm.

It is estimated the Boon wurrung people - the traditional owners of the coast and land along the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port - have lived here for 40,000 years.

About 500 Boon wurrung lived around the peninsula in 1800. The

population was decimated to only 28 by 1850.

But forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families and whole communities being sent to reserves led to many from all around Australia settling in Frankston and the peninsula.

By 2006 there were 1388 Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders living here with two-thirds under the age of 24.

Details: balukarts.org.au