6. Lucky Country

**Voiceover**

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**Viv**

Don't call this a lucky country, okay? Do not call this a lucky country. Do you know, do you know? 'Cause you don't. You stand here now, and you're comin' in on this... you don't know. This is OUR land (clapping and cheering from crowd). You do more than you go to your election next... You disamtnel it, and you stop hurting people! Get it? Get it? You stop hurting this land, you stop hurting my brothers and sisters, you stop locking us up. We're 3%. 3%! Where's the Blackfellas?

I don't want to hear this welcome, acknowledge, when, when? What's he doing in the budget? Get this one, 500 million? But we do get something, we got actually $50 million devoted to permanent police prison on some communities in remote Northern Territory and Queensland (booing from crowds). Permanent police presence!

So don't tell me about lucky fuckin' country alright? Listen! Listen! You kill this land... take it back. Take it back. You're missing something, okay? You won't have your freedom without ours. You won't have your freedom without ours (echoes and repeats out).

**Nicky**

Okay, so that audio that you were just listening to is a recording of the late Vivian Podesser Malo speaking in 2014 at an anti-Abbott rally it was at, I believe. Abbott was the prime minister at the time and the rally was pro-Labour, it was for Ged Kearney.

My understanding is that, either one of the speakers or someone in the crowd had shouted out "we want our lucky country back". Because they were talking about how Abbott was fucking everything up. And so Viv got up on stage and was speaking in response to that, to this idea that Australia had at any time since colonisation been a lucky country. So that's what that was about.

**Pauline**

Hi, it's Pauline, the Disability Day worker for 3CR. You just heard from Nicky Stott, a long time 3CR broadcaster. Nicky has assisted me in the production of every single Disability Day I've worked on. Nicky was fortunate enough to have a long friendship with Viv Malo, who was also a passionate and talented 3CR broadcaster. Here, Nicky shares some memories of Viv.

**Nicky**

I met Viv in late 2011 at a meeting that was called to set up the Occupy Melbourne protests. And we instantly clicked when we met. We became quite good friends almost immediately. And we were both going to a lot of pro-Palestine rallies around then too. And I was also, I'd just started broadcasting at 3CR the year before. So I'd been at 3CR for nearly two years. And so Viv was quite interested in what was happening at 3CR. Then in early 2012, it was the Aboriginal Tent Embassy 40th anniversary. So I went up to that with some 3CR crew to support Robbie Thorpe and John Harding who were going up there to broadcast live from the 40th at the Tent Embassy, which they did for four days solid, it was so epic. And not just on 3CR but on the Community Radio Network for a couple of days as well, on Invasion Day in 2012.

And Viv went up to of course, and she was running amok up there like everyone you know, it was such a powerful time and space to be in at that event. And it was not long after that, I think, that Viv started getting involved with 3CR and did the training and she was like a duck to water with radio. She was so good at it. And she conceived and started producing the Black Block, which of course her program, before she even finished a training. So that's how she got involved at 3CR and how the Black Block started.

And, she was getting into, well she wasn't getting into it, but she was exploring things like anarchism and socialism and thinking about different kinds of protests and she liked the idea of taking the black block protest tactic. Anarchist tactic, and giving it this nuanced First Nation spin. So that's how Black Block got its name. And so around this time, Viv was living sort of rural or regional. But that year in 2012, she moved to the city, and eventually to Collingwood, because she really wanted to be more connected to the Aboriginal community around Fitzroy and Collingwood and Richmond.

The grassroots community and to get active in those spaces. So the following year in 2013, there wasn't really any First Nations protests plan for Invasion Day, they had like the Survival Day event they have, which is great, where they have music and everyone gets together. But they didn't have, there wasn't like any formal kind of protests that was being organised.

So Viv was really instrumental that year and getting one happening at Atherton Gardens, it started and then I think there was a bit of a march into the city. But Viv really got that happening along with Gila McGuinness and John Harding, and a few other local Aboriginal community members. And of course 3CR came along to broadcast it live from Atherton Gardens, so that was cool. And then the next year, and meanwhile she just kept doing Black Block and making more waves as Viv did.

And in 2014, another really significant moment, I think, in Viv's radio career was going up to the G20 protests with Robbie Thorpe and 3CR crew to broadcast live every day from Musgrave Park with the Brisbane Aboriginal Sovereign Embassy, or base. And that was also the exciting time of the formation of Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance, happened at that time as well. So it was a powerful time, I think, and people came from all over for that. First Nations activists came from all over the country for that as well.

And then after that Viv and Robbie continued to broadcast live from Invasion Day protests every year until she passed away just before invasion Day this year. So, yeah... very vibrant. I think like, Viv's time at 3CR was really vibrant and so full of so many things. You know, she was always active on Beyond the Bars. She did this amazing series with Robbie Thorpe, and Kerri-Lee Harding. The Black Gold series, which you can find on the 3CR website, which dipped into the archives and really showcased a lot of 3CR's archives of First Nations stories over the years, and also a lot of other OB's (outside broadcasting). I think one highlight is the live broadcasts she did with Robbie and others at the frontline of the 2019 IMARC blockade. She won the station's best broadcast. Best special broadcasts or outside broadcasts, award for that. And also the Spirit of 3CR award, highly coveted award.

But yeah, it was amazing. Her and Robbie really did a great job with those broadcasts. We've really, they were literally holding the frontline on air. So it was really good radio. And the whole time meanwhile, Viv continued producing the Black Block along with Robbie. And then I think more recently last year, she moved across to Blak 'N' Deadly on Fridays.

Black Block was on Mondays. She started working Fridays on Blak 'N' Deadly because she started a new job with North Richmond Community Health as the Aboriginal Health Worker and so Friday's was a better day for her at that point, I think. So Viv did so much, and even outside of 3CR, Viv did so much. So much. And she had so many big plans, to do so much more.

That's the thing that really sucks about losing her. Is that she had so many more big plans and so many more things she wanted to do. So... that sucks a lot. But I think that the best thing that people can do to pay respects to Viv is to continue to support those struggles, that were really dear to her. And supporting the struggle of First Nations peoples and fighting capitalism and fascism and supporting local grassroots projects for Aboriginal people and spaces in Fitzroy, in Richmond and Collingwood. That's what she wants, that's what she would want me to say.

**Viv**

Hey thanks for coming to the party (clapping and cheering). I want to acknowledge we're all standing here today on land that was never ceded, stolen land. Want to acknowledge the untold suffering and crime, for 220 years, this is not new to Australia. Come on people. They kill people in state. It's the state kill of people, deatsh in custody, google that one. You shouldn't be surprised at what happens at Manus Island, what they do with the refugees. This is not new. This has been happening a long time. But good on ya, good on ya, you're here (crowd claps and cheers).

Yeah my name's Viv, I'm a Gooniyandi woman. I don't call myself Australian. Like I said this land was never ceded. As I see it, this is an illusion, we've created this crazy system, this entity that controls us, and it's getting pretty obvious. These veils are falling, it's getting pretty crazy. We can't protest. They're talking about making us pay. We've gotta park on the street, we've gotta pay everywhere we go. Money is God.

I don't pretend to speak for all Indigenous people, I stand here today and speak my truth and I knowledge that I'm not alone in this, that many feel the same way as I do. You've been white people for a very long time. That's the truth. A harsh, harsh truth, you know? They've convinced you to allow this to go on, hopefully it'll all collapse, but just look at that and see it, in the way you've never seen it before. One time step back and look at it, examine it. Because there's a lot more going on than they'd have us believe (crowd cheers and claps).

**The Crowd**

Shame! Shame!

**Viv**

Just behind me over here, it's called Cook's cottage. Just behind here. And that is a symbol of colonisation, that to me is offensive. Like I've said, they would've gave this place up. It got vandalised a couple of months ago. Now how come everyone jumps up and down when this gets vandalised, but sacred sites get damaged everyday for your mining dollar? (Crowd cheers and yells).

I'm just going to end with a few lines from an amazing woman, not from this land but, there's lots of people always been talking about this stuff. So you know it's beautiful. This is amazing. Keep goin' ay. Keep goin', there's more. Think outside the boxes, keep goin'.

“Our strategy should be not only to confront empire, but to lay siege to it. To deprive it of oxygen. To shame it. To mock it. With our art, our music, our literature, our stubbornness, our joy, our brilliance, our sheer relentlessness – and our ability to tell our own stories. Stories that are different from the ones we’re being brainwashed to believe. The corporate revolution will collapse if we refuse to buy what they are selling – their ideas, their version of history, their wars, their weapons, their notion of inevitability. Remember this: We be many and they be few. They need us more than we need them. Another world is not only possible, she is on her way." (crowd claps and cheers)

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