

Madjitol



Moorna

Singers of Aboriginal songs

Singing ~ learning ~ healing Bringing cultures together

Who are we?

Madjitol Moorna, Singers of Aboriginal songs is a choir that welcomes anyone regardless of skill, age, gender or cultural background aiming to build a strong music community where people can connect and belong. It sings contemporary and traditional Aboriginal and TSI music currently led by award-winning Noongar musician **George Walley** and guest musicians **Della Rae Morrison, Gina Williams, and Josie Boyle supported by Kobi Arthur Morrison**. The group believes that, through music and the arts, people of different backgrounds can together explore Aboriginal culture, past and present in a safe environment.

What do we do ?

Performances at schools and at significant cultural events throughout the year enable the choir to celebrate Aboriginal culture together and share its message of reconciliation and healing with the wider community. We aim to acknowledge and embrace the Stolen Generations and their journey of healing, to generate healing within the community through our singing and always to seek new Aboriginal members.

What's been happening in 2012 ?

Practices began 13 February with **George Walley** as our anchor leader and we soon began learning new songs with the beginning of a Wongi link through Aunty **Josie Boyle's** connection to the Kalgoorlie area. As with the songs of all our music directors our lives have been enriched through hearing **Josie's** songs & stories of her land and history.



George & Della Rae



Josie tells sand stories

Gigs and events

Our **22 March Close the Gap** event focused on improving community awareness about Indigenous health inequality. A large number of local health professionals and community members joined Madjitol Moorna for its "Power through Partnerships" seminar. Held at the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, the venue was kindly sponsored by the Shire of Kalamunda.



Michael Mitchell provided an update on the State Indigenous Mental Health Service. Jan Owen gave an inspiring talk about the achievements of the volunteer Kimberley Dental Team www.kimberleydentalteam.com



Aunty Karl Mourach & Tricia Flynn Scrutton

31 March **Mundaring Music Festival**

14 April **Fairbridge Festival**

www.fairbridgefestival.com.au/

5 May Stretch Festival included a collaborative event "Ruach" with the Mandurah Choral Society and an opportunity to sing with **Jonathon Welch** http://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/HBItem_246814.PDF

28 May Reconciliation Week "Our Story : Six sisters of the Stolen generation" was screened with a panel discussion with **Jim Morrison, Rev Sealin Garlett**, film maker **John McMullan** and sister **Vera Warrell** at Murdoch University. This was facilitated by Co Convenor of the Bringing Them Home Committee **Rev Ian Robinson**. This provided an opportunity for Non - Indigenous and Indigenous Australians to reflect together on their differing perspectives of Australia's cultural history, and the impact this difference has on the process of reconciliation for current and future generations. **Missed out?** The web link is <http://www.isuma.tv/hi/en/ourstories> with thanks to film maker John McMullan.

2 & 3 June **Denmark Festival of Voice.**

After a drive down to Denmark in torrential rain the sun shone as we participated in 2 concerts and a workshop. The workshop led by **George Walley** and **Della Rae Morrison** offered an opportunity for a diverse group of people to be introduced to Aboriginal culture in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

23 June Fremantle Refugee Fiesta.

Dr. Richard Walley a Patron for Madjitil Moorna gave a wonderful Welcome to Country at this event. Little did he know that he would be dragged into singing with Madjitil Moorna the first verse of "We are Australian"!



Patron Dr. Richard Walley (Right) with Madjitil Moorna

2012 NAIDOC WEEK events

2 July City of Joondalup

Led by **Della Rae Morrison** we sang during the formal ceremony and inviting invited guests to join us in singing "We are Australian" in the Noongar language

3 July Town of Victoria Park

After **Trevor Walley** had given a very interesting bush tucker talk, the choir led by **Della Rae Morrison** sang and invited the group to join us

4 July Roseworth Primary School

Members of Madjitil Moorna sang with **Kobi Morrison** and **Aunty Karl** at the school assembly

4 July City of Swan event

After the formal part of the ceremony, Madjitil Moorna led by **Kobi Morrison** sang a variety of songs while guests enjoyed eating lunch and mingling.

6 July Forreestfield FESA

After a welcome to country by Aunty Karl, **Della Rae Morrison** ran a workshop with the FESA staff including singing in language with Madjitil Moorna.

The Halls Creek Connection

In **2007** Doreen Green was actively looking for ways to build morale and create opportunities for her people in Halls Creek, especially the children who she was in daily contact with. Doreen saw Madjitil Moorna performing in Perth and was struck by the joy and energy of the group as they sang Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander songs with pride, led by Aboriginal musicians Doreen could see the potential for lifting spirits through music and invited Madjitil Moorna to come to Halls Creek



Jo Randell with Doreen Green



Community Concert

In May 2009, 29 choir members and a young filmmaker spent an extraordinary week with hundreds of children and families in the town. During the week the **Halls Creek Rodeo song** was developed by the kids of Halls Creek District High School with George Walley.

A community concert was held at the end of the week involving several local bands and solo musicians as well as scores of kids on stage with the choir. The Halls creek rodeo song was sung with gusto! Approximately 600 people attended to support the kids.

Madjitil Moorna singers felt that their lives and attitudes had been changed by this intense and affirming experience. The goodwill and trust that was generated by the first visit was sustained through visits in May 2010 and July 2011. Plans are afoot this year for the development of **the Halls Creek Rodeo Song package** which will return to the community.



Boys dance traditionally and Wren Thomas paints the boys at the 1st Halls Creek Festival

For more info about the Halls Creek connection go to http://madjitilmoorna.org.au/calendar/halls_creek.htm

Collaborations in 2012

During the first half of the year we have enjoyed practising on two occasions at the Elizabeth Hansen Autumn Centre in Bayswater where there is some hidden talent.

During the second half of the year we look forward to collaborating with staff and students from **Abmusic**. We welcome **Candice Lorrae Dempsey** as a guest **Music Director** as we learn two of her songs and prepare for a concert in November. **Mark the date for a showcase event at Kulcha Fremantle on November 10th 2012.**

Other news

Madjitil Moorna, Singers of Aboriginal Songs became an incorporated organisation 5th May 2011. After the Madjitil Moorna Management Committee was elected, the Committee members met to reflect together on the Aims and Objectives of the organisation as developed by **Aunty Karl Mourach** & now central to our Constitution. Our constitution is available on our website www.madjitilmoorna.org.au

Della Rae Morrison one of our Music Directors since 2006 has been in the Yirra Yaakin play "**Black as Michael Jackson**" which has had rave reviews. **Congratulations Della Rae!**

Tori Oakley and Pat Oakley another inaugural member of Madjitil Moorna are singing in our Patron Deborah Cheetham's opera "**Pecan Summer**"



Pecan Summer in Perth
6 – 8th September 7.30pm State Theatre

Sixty thousand years of Yorta Yorta history. 70 years of dispossession. The summer of 1939 will change the lives of the people of Cummeragunja forever. Alice is nine years old. Her family is her entire world. Alice's world is about to be torn apart. Pecan Summer is an opera for the 21st century, a contemporary opera for Indigenous Australians, a story for all Australians.

Haven't got your tickets yet? Be quick! Book at:-

<http://www.bocsticketing.com.au/whats-on/1226/pecan-summer/>

By the way **congratulations to Tori** pictured here with our **Patron Deborah Cheetham**.



Tori Oakley and Deborah Cheetham

Tori is studying at the WA Academy of Performing Arts in the Classical Voice and Opera course. She is the only Aboriginal student in the course. We're very proud of you Tori and also of "our Pat" who found the confidence to audition for the opera "Pecan Summer" through her involvement in Madjitil Moorna.

Congratulations also to Aunty Oriel Perth NAIDOC Elder of the year and to **Ulla Shay** (Candice Lorrae Dempsey) Perth NAIDOC Artist of the year!

Want to join us ?

Please do! No audition necessary. You are welcome anytime. Just check with Jo Randell that we're meeting at our usual venue on 0409 116 460 or ContactUs@madjitilmoorna.org.au

Want to donate ?

Please do! We don't have tax deductibility at the moment but are working on it. A direct deposit to BSB 06 6112 Acc No 10425392 towards development of the Halls Creek Rodeo Song package and growing our musicians and choir is always welcome.

Just E-mail the treasurer so we can thank you and send a receipt treasurer@madjitilmoorna.org.au .

With thanks to our sponsor, Healthway promoting the Respect Yourself, Respect Your Culture message



Jo Randell

Coordinator

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