



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 musicians **George Walley** and **Della Rae 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.

The Halls Creek – Madjitol Moorna Mob

Why Halls Creek?

In **2007** Doreen Green, primary school teacher and community leader in Halls Creek was very 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 Madjitol 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 had been invited to the performance by old friend Jo Randell who coordinates the choir. Immediately Doreen could see the potential for lifting spirits

through music and said, ‘This is what we need in Halls Creek. Be bold Jo. We have to get the choir here..... we have to do it for the kids.’



Jo with Doreen Green, community leader



George & Della Rae

Believing in the benefits for the children and community and encouraged by Doreen’s firm invitation as well as the support of the two local school principals, Madjitol Moorna decided to raise the necessary funds and plan a week’s activities in Halls Creek.

Halls Creek May 2009

In May 2009, 29 choir members and a young film-maker spent an extraordinary week with hundreds of children and families in the town. Workshops (singing, song writing, crafts, and metalwork) rehearsals and yarns led to a **community concert** 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 community had never experienced this kind of home-grown free entertainment before.

Approximately

600 people attended and families felt safe to come out at night and support the kids. It was at this time that the **Halls Creek Rodeo song was developed by the kids of Halls Creek District High School with George Walley.**

Madjitol 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 needed to be sustained and so the group began to plan a second visit in May 2010.

Halls Creek May 2010

Building on the previous experience, 24 Madjitol Moorna singers once again collaborated with the local community sharing a full week of extra activities

including bike-fixing, doll-making, in collaboration with local organizations. Singing and jamming were central to each day's activities with the Halls Creek Rodeo song now quite familiar. Families came to the second community concert with picnics which everyone enjoyed in a safe and relaxed environment.

Halls Creek August 2010

Since August 2009, a local committee was planning a music festival – the **inaugural Nguyuru Waaringarrem Music Festival**. The choir was invited to return last August and 10 Madjtil Moorna volunteers returned to help polish some of the children's acts and run craft workshops before and during the Festival. **The festival was a big success**, attracting 1500 people – many of them visitors who saw Halls Creek in a new light.



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

HALLS CREEK July and Aug 2011

Now a third choir visit to Halls Creek is being planned and funds raised for a July 2011 visit at the time of the **Halls Creek Rodeo**. The **Halls Creek Rodeo song** will be professionally recorded and launched. Considerable planning is going into ensuring that public funds lead to real outcomes for the community.

This year's project continues to be about local capacity building aiming to encourage the music and

leadership skills of the local community as we sing, perform and record music.

This time, children will be guided to put together their own 'Show', experiencing everything from costuming to stage management, skits to MC'ing - all in preparation for the next Nguyuru Waaringarrem Music Festival August 2011.

With sufficient funds **local trainees will be mentored in arts management, drama, music and film-making roles** to develop interest, and employment opportunities. Halls Creek people are excited about their new music festival, as it creates real career opportunities and hope for a brighter future.

"Thank You" Sponsors, Funders & Supporters



Madjtil Moorna members hope to volunteer their time, energy and skills to assist with the festival. We are proud that this year a member of Madjtil Moorna has been chosen to be the Halls Creek Festival manager. Madjtil Moorna likes to think they have helped build a stronger community through music, in Halls Creek.

Madjtil Moorna singers hope that others will hear this story and be inspired to build on a connection and make a difference in another community or within their own district.

Jo Randell Coordinator June 2011

DONATION FORM

We hope that you wish to share in Madjtil Moorna's aims and objectives. If you are able to help financially please complete this form and return to **PO Box 297 Forrestfield WA 6058** (or hand to Chairperson Chris Vigus or other choir member) Please make cheques payable to **MADJITIL MOORNA INC.** If you need Tax Deductibility please use the **ABAF** form.

NAME

ADDRESS

E-MAIL Tel No