

Madjitil Moorna Newsletter - Kambarang (Oct / Nov) 2017

Madjitil Moorna, Singers of Aboriginal songs Singing ~ learning ~ healing - Bringing cultures together



Madjitil Moorna, Singers of Aboriginal songs welcomes anyone regardless of skill, age, gender or cultural background.

The end of Madjitil Moorna's 11th year is fast approaching and it's been busy! By the end of the year we will have performed 35 Gigs, held 15 Koorlong workshops and been involved in a wide range of activities including festivals and other events. Thanks are due to all the Music Directors, the Management Team, the Operations Team, volunteers and singers! We've celebrated Aunty Karl Cultural Advisor and Jo Randell Choir Coordinator by awarding them well deserved 'Life Memberships'. Read on to find out more :)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 2 December 2017

Home Truths

An evening with Michael Leunig

Subiaco Function Centre, 201 Subiaco Rd, Subiaco, Western Australia
Doors open 5:30pm, Show starts 7pm. (Dinner if you choose 6pm)

Join beloved cartoonist and quirky social commentator Michael Leunig for a night of heart-lifting entertainment and reflection, raising urgently needed funds for mental health and affordable housing services. Michael Leunig is a beloved Australian cartoonist, quirky social commentator, writer, painter, philosopher and poet.



Often reflecting themes and issues related to inequity, mental health and homelessness in his work, Leunig kindly supports this important fundraiser for **WA Association for Mental Health and Tenancy WA** supported by the magical sounds of the Madjitil Moorna Choir.

Tickets **LIVE ROOM** NOW SOLD OUT **Available: BIG SCREEN ROOM \$10** The "Big Screen" ticket holders will be seated in an adjoining room watching the performance live on screen. Optional three course dinner is available for \$24! [Click here](#) for more details.

Sunday 21 January 2018 10am Wesley Uniting Church 75 William St, Perth

Welcome to the Mowanjum Elders accompanying young people on a trip to Perth. Rewarded for school attendance the young people leave the community on the Gibb River Road about ten kilometres south-east of Derby in the Kimberley by bus. Supported by the Boab Network it's a wonderful way to introduce the city to the bush and will have long-lasting benefits for many of the people involved. Madjitil Moorna values the opportunity to be involved. Led by Kobi Morrison Madjitil Moorna will sing three of our best known and welcoming songs. Read about last year's Mowanjum Perth Trip With The Boab Network [here](#)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

NAIDOC events

In May Madjtil Moorna had the privilege of sharing the stage with **Archie Roach** at the amazing Sorry Day Twentieth Anniversary Concert May 26th at the Astor Theatre. After the Sorry Day events it seemed that we were immediately preparing for the Makuru (Winter) Festival in Kalamunda and practising for the busiest time of the year for the choir, this being NAIDOC week. The theme for **NAIDOC** this year was "Languages Matter".



NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) **Week** is an Australian observance lasting from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday.

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Here are some of the **NAIDOC** events that we enjoyed sharing in.

26 June A workshop with Years 7 – 10 students at Yule Brook College following their NAIDOC Assembly.

27 June NAIDOC event (Songs in the workplace) at the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources organised by **Irene Verteramo** seen between **Angela Highstead (L)** and **Della Rae Morrison (R)**.



28 June Gary Holland Community Centre event in Rockingham. This was a true celebration of Aboriginal culture with all age involvement and broadcast by

Noongar Radio. We were pleased to offer an interactive set of Madjtil Moorna's well known songs including George Walley's 'I'm a yongka' (kangaroo) which became highly energetic!!

03 July Mandurah NAIDOC began with a walk along the foreshore followed by a concert at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre with George Walley.

04 July Midland NAIDOC Gig where the wonderful Karla Hart joined us on stage as we sang her song "Maawit noonook ngany koort".



Karla Hart (L centre) with Della Rae (centre) with singers

04 July Redcliffe Park led by Della Rae Morrison and Kobi Morrison.



Della Rae Morrison with son Kobi Morrison

06 July Ashfield NAIDOC Family Day



MM really enjoys performing at this big community gathering for Town of Bassendean and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service at the Ashfield Oval. Here we are warming up in the tent.

07 July Cyrenian House

Led by Della Rae Morrison and Kobi Morrison we enjoyed connecting together through song. **Shaun Nannup** welcomed everyone to country and spoke powerfully of the wisdom deep within. He encouraged everyone present to let go of past hurts and troubling anxieties while reminding us of his Noongar philosophy that we are all connected to our planet and to each other.



28 July South Thornlie School for a NAIDOC Assembly We enjoyed returning (to this lovely school) with some new songs.

08 Aug South Metro TAFE NAIDOC where we were really pleased to learn that our **Patron Richard Walley** was the Keynote speaker who gave a very thought provoking talk on why *Languages Matter*. After singing at the beginning of the event in the lecture theatre we entertained the attendees outside.



Festivals and more Gigs

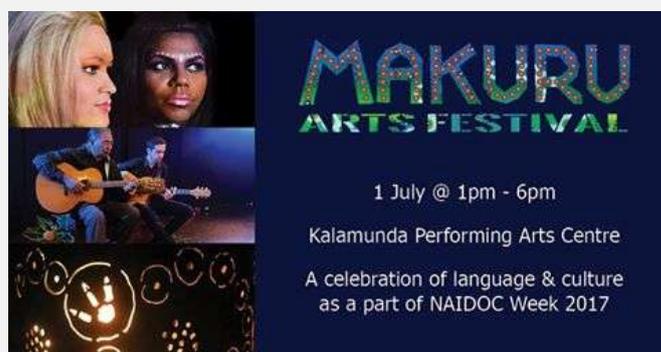
3 - 6 June Denmark Festival of Voice

Nearly 20 choir members took themselves down to Denmark to participate in the three day music festival over the long weekend. As well as performing and creating music together, the weekend gathering provided opportunity for the choir to relax together and deepen friendships.



Members of the choir led by Della Rae Morrison (centre) and Candice Lorrae (right centre)

01 July Makuru Festival Kalamunda



We sang at the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre led by Candice Lorrae and Della Rae Morrison. Songs included George Walley's "Wandjoo my friends", Candice Lorrae's "Better Place" with young Ron taking the lead and then "Ancient Sands". This song developed by Kobi Morrison, Moira Lane, Dawn Michelle and Elly Jones at the choir's 10th anniversary retreat at Roelands Mission. It was created during a song writing workshop with George Walley last year.

30 July Festival of Disrupted Ideas

This was held at the State Library and Madjitol Moorna was given the opportunity to sing on stage as well as teach the Conference delegates Noongar songs. George Walley and Della Rae Morrison led the workshops supported by Kobi Morrison.



Kobi Morrison(R) with Alex Easton (centre) and Tracy Sandercock (L) as part of the choir. The event was transmitted to the Perth Cultural Centre big screen.

18 August Women in Mining Summit

with Delly Stokes and Josie Boyle leading us in the songs 'We are One' and 'Campfires'.



Aunty Josie
Wowolla Boyle

10 -12 Nov Dunsborough SongFest



This weekend event was brought to Dunsborough by SongFest Inc., an NFP association run by volunteers who are passionate about community singing.

www.dunsboroughsongfest.com.au

We were invited to participate :) There was a really positive response to the choir and Della Rae's 'Universal Love' was very warmly received. There are already plans afoot to be involved next year!

"Such a lovely weekend of song and friendship and great Dunsborough hospitality.. Plenty of time for swims as well. Some breathtaking choirs.....and lots of people loved us. Della Rae Morrison and Kobi Arthur Morrison led us as we tackled George Walley's song 'I Believe' for the first time. Nervous business but Kylie Bishop sang the solo parts so beautifully" Jo Randell.



Jula Mullaby MM singer enjoying some beach time

KOORLONG NSIS Workshops

Terms 3 & 4

24th July Clarkson Primary School with Candice and Kristel.

24th July Beechboro Primary School with Candice and Kristel.

10 August Charthouse Primary School Waikiki with Candice Lorrae and Kobi.

17 August West Morley Primary School with Candice Lorrae and Kobi in preparation the school's **50th anniversary**.

22 September Parkerville Primary School with Candice and Kobi.

20 October Butler High School with Candice and Kobi.

26 October Dryandra Primary Mirrabooka. This was a fun event with Candice, Kobi and Phil Bartlett plus Phil Kickett as trainee and a film crew recording our activities.

03 November Rivervale Primary School using 4 - 5 songs from the Songbook to teach Year 3 - 6 students.

09 November Belmay Primary School workshop with Candice and Kobi.

The Butler High School event involved holding a workshop and then performing with the school choir.



We were invited by Beccy Garlett AIEO (L) and held our first workshop with senior school students. A NAIDOC Flag Raising ceremony followed. It was a new opportunity for Madjitil Moorna to share Noongar Songs with senior high school students.



Choir members with Music Teacher Stephen



Event organised by Beccy Garlett

The Belmay Primary School workshop ran across the school with three classes and older children working with the younger children. Very special :)



Children from Belmay pictured with Kobi and Sylvia

"Belmay Primary had activities all day today as they celebrated NAIDOC - Our Languages Matter. Candice, Kobi and a few choir members presented 3 workshops with kids of different ages - which brought the best out in everyone. Kids' favourite song: ANCIENT SANDS... so appropriate at this diverse and inclusive school. 'Do you know where your heritage lies?'.... Thank you to all the kids, teachers and Elders in support. You made us feel immensely proud and welcome at your outstanding school" Jo Randell

Special Events

25 June BOOK LAUNCH
Halls Creek Rodeo Song Book.



With the help of the Feilman Foundation this book has now been published and the launch was held at Midland Junction Arts Centre on 25 June. This simple picture book tells a big story of the choir's unlikely five-year project in WA's remote Kimberley town of Halls Creek. It was very special, to have Doreen Green previous teacher at Halls Creek Senior High School launch the book and speak about how much pride Halls Creek kids have in [The Halls Creek Rodeo Song](#) and the story it tells.

'On Sunday afternoon the Madjitol Moorna choir gathered together with family, friends and associates to launch the Halls Creek Rodeo songbook. It was a joyous and heart warming occasion of singing, storytelling and socialising.' Angela Highstead.

There were many previous singers from Madjitol Moorna present and other friends and supporters.



Marg Parkinson, Leann Dobson, Jan Nelson, Sallie Hosking

The HC Rodeo book is right now on its way to Halls Creek District High School and Warlawurru Catholic School, one for each family!

You can purchase the book [here](#).

September Birthday Party - Celebrating 11 years of Madjiti Moorna

This 11th birthday party celebration was full of surprises from [Koondarm's](#) enthusiastic and soulful harmonies to young Ron serenading us all. Aunty Josie and Delly Stokes performed and singers Mei and Matt created music for us. Nana Chris performed a song in cabaret style to be followed by Sylvia and Rachel's 'There's a hole in my bucket'! What fun we had!

In addition there was a serious part to the evening since it was at this event that Aunty Karl and Jo Randell were awarded their Life Time memberships of Madjiti Moorna.



Kobi, Jaimie, Matt, Bina, Claire, Rhiann

Above we see Koondarm who were the first entertainers for the night and rendered a high energy performance :) Below gives a taste of the evening as Ron serenades us.....



Kobi, Margaret, Patsy Molloy, Ron, Aunty Karl, Jenette, John M



Singers and friends enjoying the entertainment



Rachel Mason in costume for 'There's a hole in my bucket'



Nana Chris (Clarke) having completed her cabaret act

Other Events

20 August Habit of Horses in Mundaring



Kobi Morrison leads the choir in the singing of the Halls Creek Rodeo and other songs

Madjiti Moorna was invited to participate in the Mundaring Arts Centre Habits of Horses event which celebrated the community's love for horses through

the arts. There were a huge variety of Habits of Horses events, exhibitions and workshops exploring our relationship with these magnificent creatures. The event brought people together to share in cultural experiences and MM enjoyed participating through singing with a focus on the Halls Creek Rodeo Song!



Atsuko Hilliard, Therese Duirs, Marie Jacquier, Jo Randell

04 September Wadjuk Northside Community Aboriginal Resource Centre with Candice Lorrae and Kobi Morrison leading.



Kobi Morrison (L) Tracy, Sylvia, Candice Lorrae Rachel, Lee, Jane, Marie and Jo Randell

07 Sept CAN Networking event "Inspiring Midland" where the choir performed and taught some songs in Noongar language led by Della Rae and Kobi.



Photo courtesy Jenny Haynes (Mundaring Arts)

23 Sept West Morley Primary School 50th Anniversary After rehearsing with the school choir we were led by Candice Lorrae in the combined singing of old and

new songs. Music Teacher Kizzy Davies was a wonderful assistance and was herself critically involved in preparations for the day.



MM singer Sylvia with Music Teacher Kizzy Davies

26 Sept Community Activity Day Sudbury House Mirrabooka. Led by Della Rae Morrison and Kobi, this was an interactive gig for all ages.



Kylie Bishop, Candie Lorrae and Cathie Payne

21 October MM added songs during the evening after dinner for the **Baha'i Celebration** of the founder of the Baha'i Faith Baha'u'lla.

29 Oct Quakers Meeting 'Welcome Both Ways'.



Kobi Morrison (R) with choir members

Kobi led us for this lovely casual gathering, celebrating understanding between Noongar and non-Noongar people.

01 November Wadjuk Northside Community Aboriginal Resource Centre .



We returned to this vibrant centre for another interactive event during Seniors Week where local seniors from a variety of different groups including the local Men's Shed attended. We received a warm welcome and enjoyed the event and the environment including the wonderful food and company. It was lovely having Aunty Karl sing with us.



Kobi Morrison, Cathi , Pauline , Jo Randell, Aunty Karl

Practices



Della Rae, Moira, Tanya, Marie Sue Peaker, Jane Nicholas



Sylvia, Catherine, Tracy, Jane, Atsuko singing 'Kulbaya'



Madjitil Moorna choir members 2017 with Candice Lorrae, Kobi Morrison and Della Rae Morrison centre



Cathi Payne, Rochelle Cole, Jo Randell at Anderson Rd Community Centre our long term home for practices.

What's next

05 December RECESS

05 February NEW START

February 13th 10th Anniversary of Kevin Rudd's Apology.

This will be remembered by Madjitil Moorna Choir at an event on February 12th

THE SONGBOOK 'Aboriginal Songs for Schools and communities' has been well received by local schools. It can be purchased via the [Website Store](#) \$50 + postage. Postage will depend on the number of books ordered. (\$7 for one book) To arrange shipping for multiple books, please email us at contactus@madjitiimoorna.org.au

GEORGES NEW BUSINESS Mandjoogordap Dreaming.

George Walley Photo: Marta Pascual Juanola



If you don't already know about George and Leanne Walley's new venture, grab the bus and take a tour. It's well worth it! George's Mandjoogordap Dreaming offers Aboriginal experiences to visitors and residents across the region who wish to learn more about the local Noongar culture. Tours occur around Mandurah's waterways, bush reserves and Thrombolites and include opportunities for cultural awareness including George playing didgeridoo and the eating of bush tucker :) Read the Community News Report [here](#) or go directly to the website <http://www.mandurahdreaming.com.au/>

LIFE MEMERSHIPS have been granted to **Aunty Karl Mourach** Cultural Advisor and **Jo Randell** Choir Coordinator and both are well deserved. Thanks Aunty Karl for your wisdom in developing and shaping the choir in its early days through its aims and objectives and for providing ongoing cultural advice throughout the journey. Thanks Jo for your ongoing commitment and passion for this choir. Without your energy, leadership and musical expertise we would not be in the place we are now.

THANKS Della Rae Morrison for being our anchor Music Director this year and not to be forgotten our mainstay guitarist **Kobi Morrison**. Thanks **George Walley**, one of our favourite guest MD's, for visiting and helping us get up to speed with your older and newer songs.



Della Rae Morrison



Candice Lorrae & Kristel Kickett performing as The Merindas



Kobi Morrison, Della Rae Morrison and George Walley with guitar.

THANKS and FAREWELL to **Candice Lorrae** who leaves Western Australia in January 2018 to forge ahead with 'The Merindas' in the Eastern States. We wish you success Candice and you too **Kristel**. We know you will go far! Huge thanks Candice for all the behind the scenes work you have done and continue to do for Madjiti Moorna. You have been indispensable. We shall miss you!

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**Koondarm Choir** (*Koondarm – to dream, the Dreaming*)

A beautiful bunch of young people creating music together. Recent performances have included Camp Doogs in Harvey and at Rottneest.



The brainchild of two of our young members and musicians **Kobi Morrison** and **Wren Thomas** (pictured right) **Koondarm Choir for young adults** (pictured left) meets monthly in East Perth, proudly nurtured by Madjitil Moorna and supported by [Perth City Farm](#).



To get involved or for more information check out the choir's [Facebook](#) page, or contact [koondarm@madjitilmoorna.org.au](mailto:koondarm@madjitilmoorna.org.au)

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Did you know that **Sharyn Egan** and **Jade Dolman** well known to the choir, as well as many other Noongar artists, have had a critical part to play in the **artwork commissioned for the new Perth Stadium** and surrounding Chevron Parkland?
Victoria Laurie Senior Reporter The Australian 13th October 2017 wrote...

*'It was decided that Aboriginal culture should inform many aspects of the art installations, from art trails to interpretative story boards, a community arbour and digital storytelling on screens'..... 'One of the primary aims was to somehow wrap the stadium in the shared story of Western Australia'.... 'Sharyn Egan has created the park's most original sculptural forms, drawing on her skills as a traditional weaver to mirror the stadium's basket-like qualities. She has created woven play frames for children, who are encouraged to clamber up and over them or to hide within their soft "skins"'... 'Weitj Noorook' is a playful take on the seasonal hunt for emu eggs by young Indigenous artist **Jade Dolman**. Children can go in search of a clutch of sculptured eggs, then locate replicas of strewn eggshells and small emu footprints marking the emu's escape from its shell'.*

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**Remember.... 05 February 2018 NEW START- New members always welcome :)**

**February 13th 10th Anniversary of Kevin Rudd's Apology.**



**Jo Randell** Choir Coordinator [ContactUs@madjitilmoorna.org.au](mailto:ContactUs@madjitilmoorna.org.au)  
**Pauline Vigus** Newsletter Content [news@madjitilmoorna.org.au](mailto:news@madjitilmoorna.org.au)

*Madjitil Moorna is a unique community choir singing Aboriginal songs, led by award-winning Aboriginal performers. We sing for better understanding, challenging old stereotypes as people from all backgrounds open their ears and hearts to explore Aboriginal culture, through song and story. Check us out at Anderson Road Community Centre, 24 Anderson Rd, Forrestfield, WA from Mondays 6.30pm for a cuppa, 7pm to sing. More info: [www.madjitilmoorna.org.au](http://www.madjitilmoorna.org.au)*

Thanks are due to the



**We are privileged to sing on Whadjuk Noongar Country. We pay our respects to Elders Past, Present and Future.**