

REPORT ON KIMBERLEY DENTAL TEAM'S FIRST TRIP - AUG 09

Madjtil Moorna perspective

Written by Jo Randell

AIMS

In conjunction with the wonderful dental work being done by Dr John and Jan Owen, Dr Brian Koch and his nurse Krystal, with assistance from Tracy Sandercock and Ashleigh Owen, my aims were to

- Support the team – especially through **education** of the young children by means of teaching tooth care songs.
- Return the recording of *Halls Creek Rodeo Song* (written by George Walley and upper primary girls) to the school
- Meet with people in Halls Creek to discuss **future Madjtil Moorna collaborations**, especially in May 2010 and as follow-up, distribute DVDs of Highlights from the May 09 project and draft MM song booklets to groups that may be interested in future collaborations.

EDUCATION

Tracy, Ashleigh, Jan and I **taught songs, instructed kids on brushing technique and played** with

- Kindy kids
- Toddlers and preschoolers at Little Nuggets Early Learning Centre
- All ages at Red Hill School
- All ages at the DCP Hostel
- All ages at Yiyili Community School

HALLS CREEK RODEO SONG

Jan, Tracy and I representing MM were thrilled to be returning this highly descriptive and positive song to the kids who came up with the words.....

Verse 1

*'People come from miles around
Just to get to Halls Creek Town
Lookin' at local legends on the ride
With their four wheel drives and their best mate too
A swag on the back if they're feeling blue
They'll be right in the Halls Creek dust tonight*

Chorus

*And the dust will fly in the light blue sky with the reddened range behind
The gum trees and the dried up grass will blow in the wind...'*

Aboriginal teacher and visionary Doreen Green, music teacher Morwenna Harslett and Peter Frewen, CEO of Jungarni-Jutiya were especially thrilled to receive this song, polished up and recorded by George. It's hoped that this will be learnt and performed by the kids next year. The aim of writing this song was to engender pride in Halls Creek kids. We are confident that this is being achieved by the writing process and now, by singing the song! The children love it.

FUTURE MADJITIL MOORNA COLLABORATIONS

Background: In May this year 28 MM'ers spent a week in Halls Creek singing and playing with children to build confidence through singing, lift spirits, build pride in culture and provide positive role models for healthy living by our example. A big community concert involving local performers and over a hundred children was a wonderful celebration and the first event of its kind in Halls Creek.

In August we met with the following people to discuss the idea of MM returning to Halls Creek to continue to work with the kids:

- Sciona Browne of Better Life Project who introduced us to Nicole Muir and Kylie (?) from the Australian Girls Choir and Girls From Oz who intend to re-visit Halls Creek in order to encourage and train girls in song and dance. They are planning to work with the girls in March or May 2010. There may be an opportunity for collaboration with MM since we have the same intent – to build confidence in girls through singing.
- Doreen Green who is keen to support all efforts to create opportunities for young people in Halls Creek – especially through music.
- Peter Frewen CEO and psychologist at Jungarni - Jutiya Alcohol Centre who has offered to support the choir in any way possible next year.
- Jodie Bedford at TAFE who is keen to work together with MM, especially in the area of skills development.
- People's Church pastor Jonathon Bates and his wife Kathleen. (Doreen Green's sister) They could possibly work towards a combined concert or music festival in May 2010. They are just starting a music group....encouraging people with songs and guitars....encouraging song-writing also.
- Peter Godfrey – Manager Swimming-pool and Recreation Centre who was very encouraging of our ideas
- Jo Godfrey at Centrelink who offers craft and sports activities to young people out of hours.
- Edmore Maskaka – Environmental Health Officer at the Shire. He sings, plays brass instruments. The whole family plays and sings and may be interested in performing in a concert.
- Rosetta Smith - School and Community Nurse who is very keen to support collaborations that lead to positive health benefits.
- Jane Thomas at Dept of Child Protection and staff at the childrens' hostel who are keen to welcome us back next year.
- Morwenna Harslett, music teacher and leader of the Halls Creek Community Choir which is continuing to meet since May. They would be an obvious inclusion in a concert next year!
- Bukola Esin - Manager PRK Radio who is very keen to coordinate a concert or festival in May 2010, involving many local musicians, dancers and identities as well as Madjitil Moorna
- Melissa Walker – Associate Principal at HC District High School and Mark Sewell – Community Liaison at the school who were very encouraging of another project, especially if most activities were offered after school hours, to limit disruption to classes.
- Dean Savoia – Principal of Warlawurru School (Red Hill). Dean suggested we offer singing practice and activities after school and before the buses took children home.

Sadly, due to ill-health or absence, we were not able to speak this time to Warren Olsen CEO Shire of Halls Creek; Janine Hinton Community Services Manager, Shire of Halls Creek; Jamie Elliot, Chairman of the new HC Sports and Community Assoc and Sgt Jason Van Der Ende and Sgt Garry Fraser of Halls Creek Police, though DVDs and CDs were left for them all.

CONCLUSION

The trip to Halls Creek was very valuable and I am confident that people in Halls Creek will work towards bringing Madjitol Moorna back next year to do a similar project with the kids. The WA Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan has expressed a willingness to join us in a project, along with his rock band, The Filth saying May might well be a suitable time. Buky Esin from PRK Radio has been in touch several times since our return to update us on developments. Peter Frewen has suggested that his organization could apply for funds to help with transport and accommodation for MM – our big costs. Teachers at both schools would be keen to see another MM project involving the kids and music, as long as disruption to class routines is minimized.

Lindsay Lovering from Healthway Arts Sponsorship has indicated that funding could be sourced from them for an event that promotes healthy choices. Mark Bin Barker (Mary G) has told Buky that he would be keen to be involved. This would be a huge draw-card for the event as Mary G is loved by all ages right across the Kimberley.

Buky is very keen to work with us to make this happen and has at last count, seven local organizations keen to help. She was very impressed with the May community concert that we organized from a distance and would love to make it an annual or even 6-monthly event in Halls Creek, knowing what wonderful benefits and inspiration this could bring to the town and out-lying communities. This is very exciting because we seem to have achieved the goal of stimulating local people to build on our efforts this year. Doreen is thrilled.

The Kimberley Dental Team's visit was very successful and enhanced by the 'sing and play tooth fairies', with the help of Craig Crocodile from Dental Health Services. (See pic)
The Halls Creek Rodeo Song is OUT and being enjoyed by the kids – big and small.

We look forward to the next visit - in May 2010