

**Report on Madjtil Moorna's week in Halls Creek
leading to the inaugural Nguyuru Waaringarrem Music Festival 22 – 30 August.**

By Jo Randell 8 Nov 2010

MM was invited to Halls Creek to offer workshops alongside the main Festival.

Flights for 6 were generously provided by Argyle Diamonds and the HC Festival committee provided \$5000 towards our expenses.

Claire Dunn and Wren Thomas were able to meet Della Rae Morrison in Kununurra, to arrive in Halls Creek on Monday 22 August. Jan Owen was already in town, on dental business with Kimberley Dental Team. 6 others, including Marie and Sebastien Jacquier, Lee Peters, Angela Highstead, Mat de Koning, film-maker and myself, joined the others on Tues 23rd.

By arrangement with Doreen Green and her sister Kathleen and Jonathon Bates (pastor) we were able to stay in a cottage at the back of the People's Church in Garden Area, close to the heart of town and amongst the people. Some camped in tents and others in the cottage. We really appreciated this offer from the church community.

During the days our activities included:

- Coaching kids at Red Hill school in their performance for the Festival
- Learning 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' with kids at Rec Centre after school
- PRK Radio interview (all in a tiny studio with Carol from Better Life Project)
- Info session for volunteers where all aspects of safety and procedures were passed on.
- KIMBERLEY BUSH BEADING AND FELTING at TAFE with Marie.
- KLRC – felt workshop for ourselves, as there was sorry business that day.
- Jamming and activities with kids after school each day including some filming
- Making 200 sandwiches for festival volunteers in school Home Ec room.
- **Sat at the Festival from noon – 5pm for kids :**
 - a) **BUSH BLING – wool friendship bands, headbands with decorative bits and kids beads.**
 - b) **POI - make and learn to twirl**
 - c) **FACE ART**
 - d) and some **FILM MAKING**
- Doing Indigenous Hip Hop Workshop
- Visiting families at home and dispersing craft materials for continued use after we'd gone.

The Festival was from noon to 10 pm. It was very well organised and well attended by local people. The activities were good, the venue huge (oval), the stage good but not the one they ordered. The entertainment included big names like Peter Brandy and Mary G and local bands including the Walkabout Boys, Kimberley Gold and the Shoveller Family band.

School performances were hugely enjoyed by families. MM sang on stage with Red Hill School choir. This was a first experience of performing outside the school for all the children, up on a huge stage with a sea of faces greeting them. They did wonderfully! Halls Creek District High School choir (started by Carolyn McAdam since our May visit, for the Festival) sang Tiny McCabe's *Mungarri* song and also *Halls Creek Rodeo*, written by George Walley, MM and the kids in 2009, celebrating lots of the things kids love about their country. MM sang along heartily and the crowd loved it!

Mat de Koning was great value with kids and MMs. Has some great footage which will be woven into Harmony in Halls Creek II in the next few months.

Letters of thanks etc show that the committee really appreciated our contribution and we were absolutely THRILLED to be there at their first ever Music Festival.

Community leader Doreen Green's dream from 2005 and shared with MM in 2007 was realized.