

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

⇒ In May 2009, Madjtil Moorna choir spent a week with the children of the Halls Creek District High School and their families, sharing music workshops, stories and having fun, as previously reported in the WAAETC's June edition. The group is thrilled to see that their project seems to be causing a ripple effect, with other projects springing from the first.

⇒ The finale of Madjtil Moorna's project in May this year was such a successful concert that Halls Creek wants to host their own **Music Festival in May 2010** with Madjtil Moorna on the invitee list. A local steering committee has been formed in the town. Local and regional talent will be show-cased including Mary G, Peter Brandy, Geoffrey Fletcher and The Walkabout Boys, once again with expressions of interest sought from across the Kimberley and beyond. It is expected that in time the music festival will be as well known as the football festival and the Halls Creek Rodeo.

⇒ The children from the school are proud as punch to have recorded the **Halls Creek Rodeo song**, one of the songs workshopped with George Walley, Madjtil Moorna's Aboriginal Musical Co-Director. Senior Aboriginal teacher Doreen Green reports that this song has been of assistance with the English and History curriculum. Children have excitedly researched new words such as 'legend' and 'Akubra' as they have learnt and recorded the song.

⇒ The **dental team** returned in August when urgent treatment was carried out on children seen during the first visit. Tooth-care songs and tooth-proud Craig Crocodile went with the team! The newly formed **Kimberley Dental Team** is keen to establish strong links with Halls Creek and other Kimberley towns with the plan of a visiting at least twice yearly.

⇒ During the return visit, the dental team including members of Madjtil Moorna attended the new **Halls Creek Community Choir** once more and were pleased to hear that they are soon to cut a CD. They are working towards

performing at the Music Festival next May. Craig Croc enjoys his favourite pastime.

⇒ A documentary by Mat de Koning who travelled with the choir has been made of Madjtil Moorna's time in Halls Creek. This has been very enthusiastically received and provides an exciting opportunity to show others the rich Kimberley landscape and the positive side of life in Halls Creek. ***"The doco is a triumph, well shot, it captures the mood of the visit with honesty and is in itself a great rich piece of story telling"*** – Andy Farrant, former CEO Country Arts WA.

⇒ Having found the trip to Halls Creek a wonderful experience and personally enriching, members of the choir are excited about maintaining a long term connection with Halls Creek families and are already planning their next visit 2nd-9th May 2010.

⇒ Watch out for a screening of

