

# MOORAMBILLA more than a choir



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LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIANS TO  
CREATE, COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT TO COUNTRY



# BECAUSE LIFE IS FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

Growing up in drought in a regional or remote part of Australia shouldn't limit your education, aspirations or belief in your capacity to live a life rich in possibilities.

Moorambilla was born out of necessity at a time when its three founders could personally see that their children would not have the same opportunities which they had themselves growing up. Music making had simply disappeared from their children's lives, and they were not going to let that continue.

Elizabeth Markey, Justine Campbell and Michelle Leonard OAM decided to create a program that showcased the capacity of children in the region. Initially focused on choirs, Moorambilla quickly grew to include ballet and contemporary dance, Japanese Taiko drumming, lantern making and visual art as a way of connecting communities to each other and championing capacity. We continue to be nurtured and guided by generous elders and cultural consultants to give Australians the opportunity to deeply connect to country.

In addition, the commissioning of new works by Australian composers and artistic partnerships of the highest calibre have set this organisation apart. This potent combination has created the longest-serving regional cultural activity in New South Wales that has achieved national acclaim, with over 180 new works created for the program to date.

Fast forward to 2020, this nationally awarded organisation tours, records and performs to standing ovations. With relentless positivity, they pursue goals of excellence, equity and opportunity for all to create, communicate and connect to country.

Each year Moorambilla Voices conducts skills tours visiting 20 Local Government Areas in remote NSW.

Celebrating 15 years of work and artistic collaboration in 2020, Moorambilla has given close to 40,000 students the opportunity to learn music and connect to the culture of the region that they live in.

Each year selected students attend three intensive residency camps to dance, sing, compose, make lanterns, felt and dye fabric and play bespoke Australian made Taiko drums. Guided by elders and cultural consultants through these different artistic mediums they learn about the Indigenous legacy they are continuing and about the cultural traditions and stories of their landscape.

Each year the programme is created in partnership with the highest quality professional musicians, performers, composers, dancers and visual artists including percussionists from TAIKOZ, exceptional professional vocalists, musicians from The Australian World Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Senior Artists from the Lismore Lantern Parade and choreographers from Bangarra and NAISDA plus indigenous regional artists.

Lead by Artistic Director, Michelle Leonard OAM, the results are showcased in a series of concerts including our annual September Gala and various tours. Each child's journey with Moorambilla contains multiple opportunities to participate in high calibre performances.

Once part of Moorambilla Voices, these young people become part of a broader artistic family. This enables them to develop their cultural identity by drawing on the richness of a 60,000 year old song line that frames the landscape and knowledge of this unique region of North Western NSW.

Many students come from remote and indigenous communities, isolated or disadvantaged backgrounds, with a lack of educational facilities that support the arts and creativity. Moorambilla Voices is heavily reliant on its extensive volunteer network and the generosity of donors who collectively ensure that the voices, experiences and worldview of regional Australia can be heard. It is because of your generosity that we continue to thrive.

Now entering its 15th year, the graduates from Moorambilla continue to act in leadership roles in their community, gaining meaningful employment, some even forming their own opera company - Polyphème ! Collectively they are the spirit and future of our country. Moorambilla has allowed their song to echo loud and long into the future.

Our Participants come from diverse communities including: Albert, Angledool, Arthurville, Balladoran, Baradine, Binnaway, Bourke, Brewarrina, Brocklehurst, Bugaldie, Bungaba, Burren Junction, Carnarvon, Cassilis, Cobar, Collarenebri, Come by Chance, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Cumbandry, Cumborah, Cundumbul, Curban, Curra Creek, Dubbo, Dunedoo, Dungog, Eumungerie, Geurie, Gilgandra, Gollan, Grawin, Gulargambone, Gulgong, Gunningbland, Kenebri, Lightning Ridge, Maryvale, Mendooran, Merrygoen, Mount Kembla, Mudgee, Mumbil, Narrabri, Narromine, Neilrex, Nevertire, Nyngan, Parkes, Premer, Ravenswood, Tamworth, Terramungamine, Tooraweenah, Tottenham, Trangie, Walgett, Warren, Wee Waa, Wellington, Windradyne, Wongarbon and Yeoval.



# THEY CALL IT "MOORAMBILLA MAGIC"



## MOORAMBILLA VOICES - More than a choir!

Since 2006 Moorambilla Voices has delivered life-changing learning, laughter and creativity to the young people of regional and remote western NSW. 40,000 children have participated in our rich program of skills workshops, residency camps, recordings tours and performances to date.

We have offered them the rare and valuable opportunity to create with artists of the highest calibre - composers, musicians, choreographers and visual artists to celebrate and connect to our magnificent country.

Together we celebrate the rich culture of this region through remarkable performances, recently featured in two documentaries - Wide Open Sky and Outback Choir, and ABC Compass Christmas special 2019.

Moorambilla Voices provides a unique chance for young people to share their creative selves. We provide an environment that accepts and celebrates their capacity and seeks to stretch and empower them beyond their wildest dreams.



Can you help us to make a difference to a child who has the ability, talent and passion to think big and dream wide?

Your donation or support can make this happen.

[moorambilla.com](http://moorambilla.com)



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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