

November 2006  
Newsletter of

# A Kappella Munda



## Why AKM Exists ...

To provide an opportunity to sing together in a safe, fun, welcoming, non-judgmental and supportive environment. Come join and stay with us.

## Upcoming Events and Other News

**Christmas Concert for the Young at Heart** – 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
1.30 – 5.00 Jack Healey Centre

**Christmas Wind-up Bash** – Alison's place – 9<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Concert – Parkerville Children and Youth Care** –  
5.30 – 6.00 20<sup>th</sup> December



## Zig Zag Festival Report

Picture: Gillian Berry

Chris Oxberry

A sudden, short-lived shower around mid-day possibly affected the number in the audience when a large group of us assembled on stage at the Zig Zag Festival on Saturday, 28th October.

However, judging by the warm response from the brave-hearts who sat on the grass (wet grass no doubt!) to listen, we were in good voice. It certainly seemed so on the performers' side of the mics.

Digby's encouragement, exuberance and beaming smile as usual drew the best out of us; and Jo's gentle mid-rehearsal chiding to sing without song-sheets probably did have a very positive impact.

Did we seem more polished as a result? Feedback from one member of the audience suggested that we did!

Next time we'd like chairs for the audience maybe, no rain but everything else to be of the same high quality.

## This issue

- Report on the Zig Zag Festival Gig
- Parkerville Children & Youth Care Carols Concert
- Madjitil Moorna begins
- A Spooky tour of Britain



**Christmas Carols – Parkerville  
Children and Youth Care – 20th  
December**

**Ed Wykman**

We have accepted a kind invitation from the staff at Parkerville Children and Youth Care to do a Christmas concert from 5.30 – 6.00pm on 20th December.

This organisation focuses upon helping children with special needs and provides a loving and supportive family environment for those children.

Our contribution will include some of our own material as well as leading general carol singing for the children, staff, parents, volunteers and sponsors.

**Details**

- Please be there by 5pm for warm up.
- Address is; Beacon Road; PARKERVILLE WA 6081
- We will be singing outside on a mezzanine verandah. (They are sourcing some sound amplification).
- Be prepared to stay a bit later than 6pm if you can as there may be demand for more numbers from us.

**Madjitil Moorna**

**By Prartho Jones**

A magical sound drifted through the air at this year's *Zig Zag Festival*. People stopped in their tracks and stood mesmerised at the exquisite songs emanating from the group of singers crowding the main stage. It was the *Madjitil Moorna Choir* (magical sounds) performing at their best.

This choir was formed for the express purpose of performing at the festival. It came from a vision by Jo Randell to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal singers together to explore the joy and unity of singing *in language*.

Jo's passion led her to find two amazingly talented and beautiful women to share and teach their songs. *Jessie Lloyd* and *Della Rae Morrison* are part of an Aboriginal band called *Yowarliny*.

Some of the songs they taught were their own compositions and were sung accompanied by Jessie on the guitar. These two women were a great teaching team and their soulful music and love of life created a warm and easy learning environment. Della Rae's Auntie Karl came up with the choir's name as it was

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**Madjitil Moorna on stage at 2006 Zig Zag Festival**

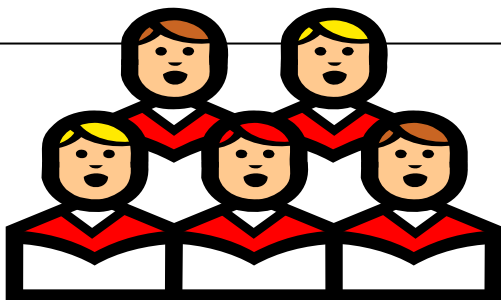
**Picture Gillian Berry**

felt important to use Noongar language in the choir's title.

This choir project was a big vision and attracted many singers. Some quickly dropped away as their own fears or level of commitment affected them. Most, however, stayed for the 13 weeks of practice on a Wednesday night at the Forrestfield Community Centre on Anderson Road. A local Lesmurdie choir *Basically Natural* chose to join *Madjitil Moorna* instead of their own weekly meetings. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience as did everyone involved, including those who had no previous singing experience.

Although the initial vision included more Aboriginal participants, this choir experience was hailed an incredible success and paves the way for future collaborative ventures. I personally have never before sung songs that have touched me so deeply - I find myself singing: "*And our souls come together like a falling tree. And our souls come together as you fall through me*" - in fact I find myself singing **all** the songs we learnt as they are all delightful. I will seize any opportunity to learn from Jessie and Della Rae and look forward to seeing them perform with *Yowarliny*.

At the moment they are involved in an Aboriginal choir project in Kellerberrin and I am sure that the future looks bright for them and all they do. Look out for any future performances from *Madjitil Moorna*, it certainly will be a magical and inspiring event.



## The Spooky Tour of Britain Digby Hill

We came from all points of the compass braving the liquid explosive scare of the day before. After long flights and delicate navigation through Greater London, followed by an hour's waiting in the rain and chilly wind for our convoy of vehicles (A 15-seater bus and a little Ford Escort to take all of the Luggage for a team of 20 people) for our early morning start, many of us were feeling as though we were not quite up to the mark for this kind of assault, and more than a little jaded with spending another 6 to 8 hrs in cramped seats (albeit this time on terra firma).

This was, as it turned out, good training for the rest of the trip. It was cramped, almost impossible to sleep on the bus, and therefore truly remarkable that we weren't at each other's throats by the end of the trip. Our not doing so owed a large debt to the fact that *(Continued Page 4)*

## Carols for the Young At Heart - 2006 Carols Concert at Jack Healey Centre

Our 8th annual concert for seniors is being held on Saturday 2nd December at the Jack Healey centre, on the corner of Mead St and Canning Roads, Kalamunda.

We have changed the name to 'Carols for the Young at Heart'. Do you like the new name?

We have some surprising comedy acts lined up this year and another talented young group from the hills to support us, singing our favourite carols, in an afternoon of entertainment.

The concert runs from 2.30 to 4.30 but please plan to be available from 1.30 to 5 for setting up, warm-up and clean-up.

## ***A Kappella Munda – A Choir of Wonder***

the blokes on the trip were, by and large, extremely nice fellers, and also that many of them had a deft capacity to point out the funny side to our many (mis-) adventures.



That first day gave us lots of tastes of what was to come - including our first misadventure with the bus (an unknown anti-theft device almost scotching our first two gigs) I had no idea it was possible to make so many jokes about starting a car in neutral.

The first performance was in the *Hereford Three Choirs Festival Fringe*, and was marked by a distinct uncertainty in the audience; lots of odd looks on their faces as though to say "What on Earth .? ", or even "Who on Earth .?"

It took a lot of hard work to crack the first laugh, but once we had, the ice was broken. By the end of the performance they were stamping and clapping for more. This left us weak-kneed, but a lot happier about our prospects for the rest of the tour.

Apart from the frenetic madness of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, everything from then on seemed to be a blur of similar events until we had a following to give the audiences a boost of pre-ingested

enthusiasm. The things that stood out during that time were not the performances so much as the places we passed through, and the venues (everything from wire supported plywood platforms in the middle of a street, through a vertically stacked rabbit warren of catacombs, and the "Famous Spiegel Tent" La Gayola, to some of the most beautiful converted churches I have ever seen.



Apart from my having to learn all of the songs Bass parts as a result of another Spook having to fly back to Australia in the early part of the journey, and some very tired voices by the end of the tour, the actual singing was a breeze aided by the gentle humour and admonishments/advice given freely by everyone to everyone else, and equally freely fielded back again.

It's hard to pack six weeks of activity into half a page; if anyone would like to have their ears chewed about all of the highs and lows, feel free to come and ask.

Digby Hill  
9433 4171

