

# MOORAMBILLA VOICES

## the bush kids choir

Moorambilla Voices visited our school earlier in the year during their regional skills development workshop tour and conducted fun, engaging singing workshops, involving all students from St Joseph's, who wished to participate. Several students were then invited to take part in the vocal residency camps that followed.

Three children attended the camps held in Baradine and Dubbo during August and September. They were then part of a 235-strong children and youth choir, performing two concerts in Dubbo in September.

These students were **Ava Collett, Campbell Collett and Lukah Bass**.

Since then, Moorambilla Voices have been invited to bring a choir to Sydney to take part in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations for the Opera House.

**Lukah Bass and Campbell Collett** have been honoured with selection to join around 40 other Moorambilla Children and will perform on the steps of the Opera House on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### Moorambilla Riversong 2022

*A lady from Coonamble had a vision for a song,  
so, she formed a little choral group and invited kids along.  
She travelled near and far and wide, with her gang of super aides.  
They called on over 60 towns, 134 schools and 20 LGA's.*

*From Wilcannia to Wee Waa and everywhere between,  
skills Development workshops, were run to gather a team.  
Students from year 3 to 12, took part in every town;  
and Moorambilla Riversong was gaining musical ground.*

*Moorambilla is property, in North West NSW,  
located near Coonamble, from where Founder, Michelle, hails.  
In Country Wailwan and Gamilaroi, inspiration was humbly found,*

it's here the mighty Castlereagh, flows beneath the ground.

It's a genuine oasis, full of birds and gums and creeks,  
Where regeneration and respect; and inclusion kindly speaks.

It signifies rebirth and is imbedded in our Nation.  
A "Place of fresh water" is the Gamilaroi translation.

From foundation during drought, in the year 2006,  
regional kids have had a voice, with a creative twist.  
Their infectious love of singing and enthusiastic youth,  
was channelled into song and dance, with traditional flair to boot.

From workshops, kids were chosen to participate in camps.  
Camp Cypress first at Baradine, where they sang and moved and danced!  
Then they flocked to Dubbo, for another couple of days,  
where all of their hard work and skills were proudly on display.

The Dubbo Civic Theatre was spiritually transformed.  
The Culture and the Legacy of our Country felt re-born.  
Our children put on magical shows, over two incredible nights.  
Their performances were moving, there were no dry eyes in sight.

Their time at Moorambilla, taught many a valuable skill,  
from performance and sight singing to self-discipline and goodwill.  
With 235 fellow kids, their creative juices flowed,  
just like our splendid rivers, to where inspiration is duly owed.

Moorambilla Voices deserves a curtain call.  
Their whole team is immeasurable; they are gifted - one and all.  
They gave our children competence and allowed them all to shine,  
Thank you, Moorambilla Voices, we salute you til next time.

Joanna Collett 2022.

