

HALLS CREEK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SING PETER BRANDY CLASSIC AT ORD VALLEY MUSTER STREET PARTY

Eleven g-oz girls between the ages of 12 and 16 from Halls Creek District High School (HCDHS) performed a range of repertoire including both song and dance at the event's renowned Horizon Power Street Party, however the undisputed highlight was witnessing the girls' stirring rendition of Peter Brandy's Kimberley Backroads.

g-oz Program Leader, Laura Knowling, said it was exciting to see the girls meeting challenges head on.

"To see the girls recognise the importance of sharing their culture and heritage through song is really inspiring; particularly when that song is written by someone who shares their experience of growing up in Halls Creek. I think everyone in the audience could see the pride and joy on each of their faces throughout the performance. I know their families, friends, classmates and the whole community will be very proud of them. But the most significant part, for me, is seeing how proud the girls are of themselves".

g-oz has been involved with the community of Halls Creek since 2009, and this is the third year that HCDHS girls have performed at the Ord Valley Muster. Next year will mark a decade of working together with families, teachers and locals to grow confident, happy and determined young women.

In collaboration with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC) and Aboriginal staff at HCDHS, since 2016 the g-oz program has included songs in local languages, Kija and Jaru, including Kimberley Backroads. The most recent National Languages Survey concluded

that Australia has witnessed the "largest and most rapid loss of languages of anywhere in the world over the last century". g-oz encourages the use of local language in order to contribute to the cultural development of younger generations of Aboriginal girls.

Over the last nine years, g-oz has delivered 34 week-long performing arts intensives to the children at HCDHS, and looks forward to returning in June to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

g-oz is committed to providing performing arts programs that have the ability to simultaneously improve school attendance and educational engagement, foster physical health, promote social and emotional well-being, develop life skills and ultimately enhance the future life prospects of participants.



STOP
cyberbullying

Kids Helpline
1800 55 1800

Kids Helpline would like to remind everyone that free phone and online counselling service Kids Helpline is available to all children and young people across the Australia anytime and for any reason.

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online

counselling service for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years. www.kidshelpline.com.au or free call 1800 55 1800.

KIDS HELPLINE'S TOP ANTI-BULLYING TIPS

What to look out for:

- Unexplained cuts or bruises or pencil marks on the skin.
 - Being quiet or withdrawn.
- Reporting vague headaches or stomach aches.
 - Ripped, stained or soiled school clothes.
- 'Losing' lunch money or other things at school.
 - Falling out with previously close friends.
 - Being moody or easily distressed.
- Not wanting to leave the house or reluctance to go to popular places such as malls or parks (they may be trying to avoid the bully).
 - Not wanting to go to school.
- Experiencing difficulty in sleeping at night.
 - Becoming worried about a lot of things.
- Showing sudden changes in eating behaviour.

If your child is being bullied:

- Let the child know it is ok to talk about how the bullying is making them feel.
 - Remind children it is NEVER their fault and provide the space for them to talk about what's going on. Sometimes it's good just to listen before acting.
 - Help the child or young person understand the power dynamic involved in bullying. Discuss ways to stop giving the bully power, for example, walking or turning away from the bully.
 - Reassure them that you will help to stop the bullying from continuing.
 - Find out what, when and where it happened and if anyone was present.
- Contact the school or organisation where relevant and make sure they are aware of the problem and work out with them how to stop the bullying.
- Talk to the experts – If you don't know what to do or where to go consider calling trained counsellors at Kids Helpline or contact www.esafety.gov.au.

Halls Creek Herald

www.hallscreekherald.com