

**DIDGERIDOO**

AUSTRALIA



Aboriginal Cultural Experiences

**ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, INSPIRE!**

**EDUCATION**



## Educational Institutions (schools, universities, etc.)

Didgeridoo Australia programs stimulate musical creativity and cultural curiosity. Our tailored curriculum includes Aboriginal song and dance, Didgeridoo performances and workshops, ICT presentations on aspects of Aboriginal culture, and exhibitions of authentic Aboriginal arts and crafts.

The emphasis is on student involvement, which cultivates a sense of community among the students (and sees some take up the Didgeridoo).

Didgeridoo Australia is a unique addition to school and University curriculums, multicultural events, theatre projects, holiday programs, open days or a full Aboriginal song and dance concert all its own.

## Why use the Didgeridoo at schools?

The Didgeridoo is a uniquely Australian instrument and is part of a living, Aboriginal culture. Unlike most other contemporary instruments, Didgeridoo playing does not require any knowledge of musical notation!

As experimentation forms a large part of learning to play the didgeridoo, there is great incentive for students to jump straight in- we are yet to meet a child who isn't keen to have a go! Whether listening to, or learning to play, this wonderful instrument, our workshops and performances have the power to instantly engage and delight students of all ages. In this way we provide the perfect platform for students to tune in and feel excited to learn more about Indigenous Australian cultures, people and history.

## When to introduce the Didgeridoo to school events:

Our Didgeridoo programs for schools are an entertaining way to promote musical creativity and increase cultural awareness among your students. Our vibrant and engaging programs draw everyone in, resulting in full participation and fostering a real sense of community.

As very few students are already experienced in playing this instrument, our workshops provide a great 'level playing ground' to learn new skills together. The added opportunity, to decorate their own Didgeridoo to take home at the end of the day, is also extremely enticing to students!

As well as supporting specific curriculum units, our programs are ideal for reconciliation events and celebrations, multicultural days, school holiday programs, fetes and in preparation for student concerts/theatre performances to name but a few!

We are a highly flexible team and want to deliver the highest quality program that is most suited to your individual learning context. So please give us a call to discuss how we can apply our skills and knowledge to best support your students.



## Objectives

- > Create a fun-filled environment without social barriers that will inspire learning and get everybody to participate.
- > Raise awareness for the Didgeridoo and aspects of Aboriginal culture (multi-cultural awareness) through music
- > Introduce basic Didgeridoo playing techniques that everybody can learn!

## Outcomes

- > Stimulates creativity
- > Promotes listening skills
- > Improves self-esteem by learning a new instrument
- > Immediate sense of achievement by learning a range of sounds with the Didgeridoo within a short period of time
- > Working in a group provides a sense of belonging and community to the children

## School Didgeridoo programs

We can customise your very own program to ensure that it will deliver the desired outcome and get your students all fired up! We are working with several indigenous educators from various areas in Australia. These educators provide an authentic experience, based on their individual cultural knowledge and background.

Please look at our most popular programs below as examples and contact us to discuss any additional / other requirements:

### > **The Exhibitor**

An exhibition of Aboriginal arts and crafts. Visitors have the opportunity to have a closer look and handle authentic Aboriginal instruments, weapons, artwork, baskets, etc.

Our staff member will explain all items, and demonstrate their use in Aboriginal society.

### > **The Entertainer**

This is a live music program that can be as short as 30 minutes or as long as 1.5 hours.

The main purpose of this program is to entertain and to inspire your students – the Didgeridoo is an amazing and powerful instrument that can be played in a number of styles, from traditional to contemporary - mixed with dance beats, to get the whole school up onto their feet, dancing!

*Optional:*

- > Aboriginal song
- > Aboriginal dance
- > Aboriginal dance troupe

### > **The Educator**

This program combines an exhibition of authentic, high-quality Aboriginal arts and crafts with a stunning slide show and live music. The main purpose of this program is to educate students on various aspects of living Aboriginal culture (for example arts, crafts, hunting and music) and to leave students inspired about the oldest living culture in the world.

*Optional:*

- > Aboriginal song
- > Aboriginal dance



### > **The Learn-How-To-Play Lesson**

This is a lesson to introduce students to the Didgeridoo with theory and plenty of hands-on practice! Students will receive a practice instrument and will explore the fundamental playing techniques – from a basic drone to various ways of altering the sound of the instrument.

#### *Students will learn:*

- > The history and origin of the Didgeridoo and its use by Aboriginal people today
- > Basic drone
- > Sound variations (including animal calls and sounds, etc.)
- > The concept of 'Circular Breathing'

#### *Optional:*

- > Students can purchase a low-cost, plastic practice instrument for this lesson and learn how to decorate it with Aboriginal symbols in a subsequent lesson.
- > Students can continue with weekly lessons to become proficient players (see below).

### > **The Learn-How-To-Play Course**

This program is designed to teach your students how to play the instrument. It is conducted with weekly lessons over a number of consecutive weeks (usually one term).

Students will receive their own practice instruments and will be taught cultural background information and the fundamental playing techniques in depth. Lesson notes will be supplied, including tasks for home study.

This program is a fundamental introduction to how this instrument is played. It includes plenty of practical exercises, as well as directions and support regarding self-study between the lessons.

#### *Students will learn:*

- > The history and origin of the Didgeridoo and its use by Aboriginal people today
- > How to create and maintain the basic drone
- > How to create defined sound variations (including animal calls)
- > How to play basic rhythms on the Didgeridoo
- > How to master 'Circular Breathing'

#### *Optional:*

- > This course can get extended to explore advanced techniques and rhythm patterns, compositions and integration of the Didgeridoo into your school band.

### > **The 'Whole Package'**

This program is ideal for full-day reconciliation or Indigenous/Multicultural events at your school. The program is customised as per your requirements and expected learning outcomes. See example below.

#### *Whole School/Year level Assembly:*

- > a traditional 'Welcome To Country' ceremony by a Wurundjeri elder
- > Aboriginal song and dance performance, accompanied by Didgeridoo
- > Introduction of our highly qualified, selected educators

#### *During the day (simultaneous delivery of lessons by multiple educators):*

- > Song
- > Stories
- > Language(s)
- > Art (eg. painting)
- > Didgeridoo playing
- > Dance (traditional and contemporary)

**If you have any other requirements at your school, please contact us!**