

# ABORIGINAL CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

*Entertain, Educate, Inspire!*



**DIDGERIDOO**  
AUSTRALIA



# We would love to engage your school in an ongoing relationship with Didgeridoo Australia, beginning with a Ganga Giri Show!

Didgeridoo Australia is headed by Ganga Giri, world renowned multi-instrumentalist and descendant of Tasmania's Palawa people, and Henning Gerlt, experienced educator and adopted member of the Gumatj clan of North East Arnhem Land. Ganga has performed to millions over a 20-year international career, winning plaudits from notables including Peter Gabriel. His mastery of the didgeridoo, innovative style and pride in his multicultural heritage has made him an ambassador for Australia and indigenous culture. He is one of the world's foremost didgeridoo experts.

Didgeridoo Australia's purpose is to provide indigenous cultural experiences that inspire ancestral pride in all multicultural Australians and to connect to the roots of the land on which we stand.

A major aspect missing in most indigenous education is to bridge the gap between an ancient culture and our current society and to offer people avenues to engage in the indigenous Australian culture. Ganga Giri's performances and our selection of workshops do this brilliantly and key Elders are excited by the unique and timely messages spread by Ganga as a role model and Henning as an educator.

With encouragement from Wurundjeri elder Ian Hunter and Djalu Gurruwiwi, Galpu clan's senior didgeridoo custodian, our workshops are authentic, dynamic and culturally appropriate.



## The show includes:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- History of the didgeridoo and a demonstration of Ganga's amazing, unique collection
- A message of multiculturalism, including Ganga's experience as a mixed-race Aboriginal descendent and renowned cultural messenger
- A demonstration of instruments and how Ganga integrates both modern and ancient into his life and music
- School representatives are invited to present their own unique Acknowledgement of Country alongside Ganga Giri
- A fun introduction to all members of the Didgeridoo Australia team who will be involved in further activities on the day
- A Ganga Giri show can either be electronic dance or an unplugged didgeridoo performance

We recommend a performance to your entire school or year level, followed by didgeridoo or culture workshops for class groups.

Uncle Ian Hunter, esteemed  
local wurundjeri elder  
"I am proud to be involved  
with and completely endorse  
Didgeridoo Australia"



# Workshops

## Didgeridoo Workshop

*Duration - 1 lesson period*

This involves:

- A presentation of the didgeridoo (origin, traditional making and use, etc)
- A demonstration of playing styles and animal sound imitations with the instrument
- A hands-on 'how to play' session with sanitised plastic didgeridoos. Students learn fundamental drones and sound variations (this takes most of the program, and is a lot of fun!)
- A display of Aboriginal images on pop up banners and authentic handcrafted didgeridoos

## Culture Workshop

*Duration - 1 lesson period*

This program covers a range of topics around a selection of Aboriginal cultures, where students will have the opportunity to handle a range of artefacts and learn about their traditional uses, construction and cultural significance.

Topics covered include:

- Arts (painting and ochres)
- Crafts (baskets, necklaces)
- Hunting tools (boomerangs, spears and spear throwers)
- Bush food (kangaroo and possum skins, emu eggs)
- Music (didgeridoos, clap sticks).
- A short hands-on 'how to play' didgeridoo session (approximately 15 minutes)

## We cover curriculum requirements for teachers

Didgeridoo Australia classes and performances help teachers meet the Australian Professional Teaching Standard 2.4 (Understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians). We make easy and enjoyable what is often a challenge for teachers unfamiliar with Aboriginal culture.

Didgeridoo Australia also helps teachers meet The Victorian Curriculum F-10, which requires all students to **'learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The knowledge and skills that students are expected to develop about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders histories and cultures has a particular and enduring importance and assists students to understand the uniqueness of these cultures and the wisdom and knowledge embedded in them.'**

Our carefully designed lessons cover the concepts, skills and knowledge required to meet curriculum standards. With notice, we can tailor presentations to specifics you'd like addressed.



## DISPELLING THE MYTHS AND INTERESTING FACTS

The didgeridoo is one of the world's oldest woodwinds, evidenced by Top End rock paintings that depict Aboriginals playing the instrument 2000 years ago.

According to Aboriginal legend, the instrument originated in North East Arnhem Land before spreading west, east and finally south. The instrument's roots are with clans from the Kimberley, across Kakadu and Arnhem Land to the Gulf of Carpentaria and parts of the Cape York Peninsula.

Legendary senior elder Djalu Gurrulwi, chief custodian of the yidaki (didgeridoo) in North East Arnhem Land's Galpu dan, has giving his blessing for men, women and children to learn the didgeridoo (although in his culture, only men can play the instrument in ceremonial context).

Ganga and Djalu have been friends and musical companions for 20 years.

The didgeridoo is a complex, fascinating instrument generally made from different species of Eucalyptus hollowed out by termites. Traditionally, didgeridoos are crafted to suit local playing styles. Their characteristics and sound can vary greatly from one area to the next. For instance, traditional west Arnhem Land rhythms are difficult - even impossible - to play with didgeridoos from North East Arnhem Land, and vice versa!

The didgeridoo is celebrated globally as uniquely Australian. Annual didgeridoo festivals are held in several countries, with many people taking up this amazing instrument!

## Benefits & Impact

- Students are captivated by Ganga's performance, a unique insight into the first Australians' approach to land and culture
- Electronic and traditional music are fun and effective educational tools
- The fusion of these two styles provides an engaging way for students to appreciate the value of traditional Aboriginal cultures whilst also embracing and connecting with a contemporary living Aboriginal culture of today
- We welcome students to create their own Acknowledgement of Country and invite a representative to 'welcome', alongside Ganga, prior to his show. This is quite exciting for students!
- Students love handling instruments that, however synonymous with Australia, kids rarely experience
- Our culture workshops are fun, authentic and inclusive. Henning's presentations equally engage students and teachers alike
- Health benefits: didgeridoo playing requires deep breathing, which improves concentration and mindfulness and has proven benefits for sufferers of asthma, sleep apnoea and anxiety

## Value

- When booking a show and workshops together, the show fee is \$6 per student for a minimum of \$990. Workshops are \$300 each for approx. 25 students
- Ganga Giri's individual show is \$8 per student for a minimum \$1100. The typical duration is one hour, although we are happy to alter performance length to suit a school's requirements. Ganga will bring five unique didgeridoos and his electronic instruments. A PA system can be supplied, if required
- When booking Culture or Didgeridoo workshops individually, the fee is \$350 per workshop of approx. 25 students or \$1200 for four back-to-back workshops
- We can either provide one educator hosting back-to-back workshops or multiple educators conducting simultaneous workshops (minimum of two workshops per teacher booked for the day)

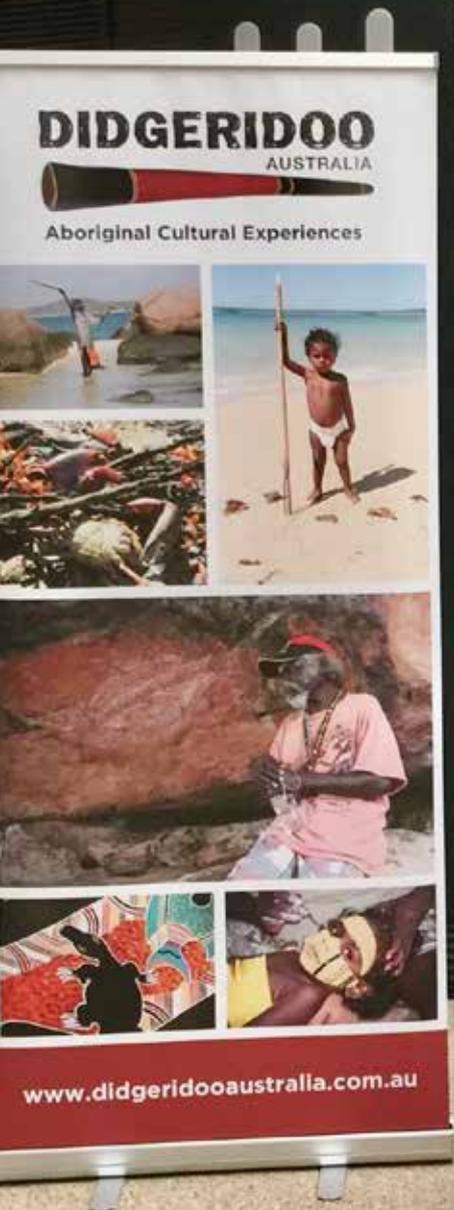
## Additional options

- We can provide an additional performance of a guided relaxation and meditation session with the didgeridoo
- We can provide extended shows and education programs including other educators, elders, dancers and artists on request
- Our professional photographer, Stephen McKenzie, can provide candid coverage of the event and portraits of students with props. \$400 includes 100+ digital images, with full copyright to the school

## TESTIMONIALS

"Your well-resourced, organised and carefully prepared session was both of a professional standard and highly engaging for our young Year 2 students. Your friendly manner and sense of humour was pitched perfectly for your audience, as students were taken through the different components of the session. The quick setup and pack up of your equipment was greatly appreciated due to the time constraints of the school timetable. Thank you again for an entertaining and educational incursion."

*Chad Gallaher, Balcombe Grammar School*



"Didgeridoo Australia presented an interactive, educational and highly engaging workshop to our Year 7 Parade College students during Reconciliation Week. The students were impressed with the contemporary didgeridoo performance by Ganga, and the enthusiastic and informative presentation."

*Ann Fahey, Parade College*

**PLEASE CONTACT US TO  
BOOK YOUR NEXT  
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EXPERIENCE!**

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