

The Mowanjum Festival A model for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Collaboration

- A personal account of the Mowanjum Festival arising from my volunteer work over the past nine years
- Dr Robert Hoskin

Map of the Kimberley, displayed in the foyer of the Mowanjum Arts Centre



The Mowanjum Community

Mowanjum is an Aboriginal community some ten kilometres from Derby, comprising the Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunumbal peoples of the Western Kimberley. The three tribes are people of the Wandjina, the Creator Spirit beings who are believed to create and sustain the land and its people.

The Mowanjum Festival

- Established in 1998 with a grant from the Australia Council for a traditional dance workshop
- The Festival developed into a multi-cultural event bringing diverse presentations from local and overseas
- Now the Festival presents indigenous culture mainly from the Kimberley, but also the Torres Strait Islands











I have worked as a
volunteer nine years
together with other
volunteers

- Organizing the repair of totems
- Helping with coordinating performers
- Assisting in the Gallery
- Writing a manual for Festival organization

And many other tasks





Journeys up the coast and inland

The Mowanjum Festival: An action/ reflection Model

- Collaboration begins and ends with Relationship
- Listening is a vital ingredient to successful collaboration
- Collaboration, if effective must be of benefit to all parties
- Taking initiative is part of a healthy relationship
- Reflection is a vital part of the collaboration process
- Being is as important as doing
- The wider sharing
