

# DIDGE

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## IN A DAY

### Program Overview



Dear Program Reviewer,

Thank you for reviewing our exclusive service. It is a unique program designed to enrich and preserve our Australian heritage, while building self-esteem, identity and skill in participants.

We can clarify any matter that you are not certain on so you can make an informed assessment on the suitability of the program for your context. We contextualise workshops to education, corporate and tourism markets and present an overview of the program and benefits here for the education sector.

If you prefer a visual overview, please watch our short 2-minute introduction here:

<https://youtu.be/RqkhZRBajFQ>

Our service is responsive and flexible. Please contact us to discuss possibilities.

Kind regards,

**Alex Murchison**

☎: 0431 903 624

✉: [alex@didgeworkshops.com.au](mailto:alex@didgeworkshops.com.au)



## **Program Overview & Logistics—Practical Skills with a Tangible Result**

The 'Didge in a Day' program was developed to provide students with a 'hands on' and 'fun' learning experience of Australian Aboriginal culture. Participants are given an authentic termite hollowed 'blank' didgeridoo and through a guided process, create their own instrument. The program is facilitated in one day (5-6 hours) and is flexible depending on your requirements. All the tools and materials are provided, and at the end of the day the students get to keep their own, newly made didgeridoo. Equally important, the knowledge and experience are theirs to keep forever.

### **Program Benefits**

1. *Intrinsic personal knowledge and confidence - Leading to positive decision making*

The quiet building of knowledge and culture moves students to make wiser and more positive life choices. We also witness the immediate benefits of understanding and cultural bridging which potentiates reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peers. Our ten years of experience testifies to this clear and observable result.

2. *Creation/Strengthening of cultural programs in schools*

Didge in a Day provides a tangible access point to cultural education from which other cultural activities can be added to thoroughly enrich students with their Australian identity and heritage.

3. *Practical, memorable and enjoyable fulfilment of Indigenous Australian curriculum requirements*

Competency is enhanced by practical exercise. Combined with nature, students connect on multiple dimensions. What better way to introduce Indigenous Australian art, history, culture and values!

4. *Career path to male Indigenous Australian mentors roles*

Selected students can be offered opportunity to mentor others that can open desire and access for further development. There is a dire shortage of male Indigenous Australian mentors and Didge in a Day attempts to close this gap.

## 5. *Cultural industry development*

Students gain the skills needed to successfully craft didgeridoos. Continued refinement, coupled with training to create, perform, and promote their culture and cultural icons can lead to authentic business opportunities individually and communally. Didge in a Day provides an access point to develop business management, communication and valuable life skills necessary to persevere, to grow resilience and to prosper.

### **Designed to be Easy**

Didge in a Day is designed to be easy for anyone from year 7 and above to participate successfully in. We also find that younger children love the program and complete it successfully with the assistance of an adult. No wood working skills are required, and all necessary specific training is provided on the day.

### **Group Size**

We are able to cater for a group per workshop of up to 20 people, however, we have found that around 12 participants per workshop makes the experience more memorable and personal for each member of the group. Larger numbers are catered for over consecutive days.

### **Venue Considerations**

We come to you. The workshop can be run outdoors without power, or any fixed workshop equipment such as vices, benches, power tools, etc. Unless weather is unsuitable, no premises are required. The health benefits for an open learning environment also provides a positive reason to run it outdoors whenever possible.

### **Cultural Considerations**

As a rule, this workshop caters to males only due to the cultural norms relating to this activity. (This consideration would also apply to 'Learn to Play' lessons). We also encourage all potential customers to consult with local Elders and parents in regards to the running of these workshops in their area and explore how the program can be leveraged to further deepen cultural ties. We desire to show respect for and give support to all local Indigenous Australian peoples. We are also happy to answer questions and consider any suggestions that may arise.

### **Costing**



Cost per person is \$195 fully inclusive for our standard program. This includes coaching, materials, tools, consumables and the didgeridoo.

**Additional information below:**

1. Gallery
2. References

















## References



### *St John the Evangelist Catholic High School*

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#### **To Whom It May Concern**

Our Didgeridoo Group has a large number of very passionate players. The students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous practice on plastic pipes we call Polydos. A few of the students are lucky enough to have their own Didgeridoo. When Alex Murchison from Echo Tree contacted us regarding his workshop "Didge in a Day" we were excited by the prospect.

An expression of interest was advertised and we had so many applicants that we ran the program for 2 consecutive days. Boys from Year 7 to 11 participated. Alex was very accommodating with the various ages and skills of the boys and he also supplied everything that was needed for the day. Whilst the program was running we had many other students coming up to ask about it and how they could be involved should the opportunity arise again.

At the end of the day each student had their own Didgeridoo to take home. They were very proud of their achievements and thoroughly enjoyed the activity. It was wonderful to see all the students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous working and walking together on this journey. They have learned a life-long skill that can be shared and passed on.

I would highly recommend the "Didge in a Day" program provided by Alex Murchison from Echo Tree. It was a truly bonding experience for everyone involved that provided a wider potential to deepen interest in culture and reconciliation.

Jo-anne Coleman  
School Support Officer  
Indigenous Education Unit



Denyse Gibbs  
Indigenous Education  
Coordinator  
St Edmund's College  
Canberra  
ACT 2606

## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

For many years St Edmund's College, Canberra has been fortunate to have Alex Murchison from "Echo Tree" come to the College to share his experience and expertise in the making and playing of the Didgeridu.

Alex has run a number of his very popular "Didge in a Day Workshops" for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students as well as teaching many of our students over the years to play. The students have ranged from Years 7 to 12 and all have commented on their enjoyment and appreciation of the program.

The workshops are tailored to fit into the school day and I have found Alex to always be very flexible with accommodating the various skill levels and needs of all students. This has included some of our Special Needs students and Alex is very good at ensuring that all levels of ability are catered for.

At the end of the day's work each student has their own Didgeridu to take away. Alex supplies all tools and materials and his patience and clear explanations have ensured that the boys enjoy the entire activity as well as learning new skills.

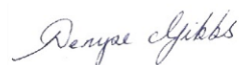
A number of our staff and Senior Management have also participated in the activity and this has been a very positive experience for all concerned and works well as a team bonding day which is also a lot of fun for all involved.

Another benefit of the program has been the way that the activity has helped to bridge a cultural divide between our Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. To see all students working together and learning new skills has been inspirational and a very worthwhile approach towards achieving reconciliation.

A number of our Indigenous students have very little knowledge of their culture and I have noticed that the completion of this activity has often sparked a deeper interest and has caused a positive change in direction and attitudes of some students.

After the activity some students have gone on to establish a small group of Didgeridu players within the school and have enjoyed developing a lifelong skill.

The program has a very wide potential on a number of levels and I would highly recommend Alex Murchison and the "Echo Tree" Didgeridu experience.



Denyse Gibbs  
**Indigenous Education Coordinator**  
St Edmund's College, Canberra