What is the Moorambilla Regional Children's Choir?
The regional children’s choir began in 2006 with an audition tour of western NSW towns by artistic director Michelle Leonard. 43 primary school aged boys from regional and remote communities came together to form the Moorambilla Regional Boys Choir. From these humble beginnings the Regional Boy’s and Girl’s Choirs have grown to over 130 in 2011. In 2008 the first MAXed Out Company was formed for high school students and has gone from strength to strength over the past 4 years. For this year’s high school students (years 7 to 10) another exciting project is planned. MAXed Out will give participants with skills in composition and more contemporary music skills, and the opportunity to work with the leading Australian percussion group Synergy Percussion. The primary school children will also join in the performance of what will be a spectacular work at the Festival. Selected boys and girls will meet for two compulsory Residency Camps - one in late August (girls, boys and youth separately) and again in September (girls and boys combined). The Residency Camps are an opportunity for children to work with professional artists (a composer, conductor, string quartet, percussionists, saxophone quartet and the Sydney Youth Orchestra) on the development of new Australian music for performance at the Moorambilla Festival!

How many children will we be accepted into the choir in 2012?
We will be accepting up to 80 girls for the Regional Girls Choir and 80 boys for the Regional Boys Choir. The Youth project “MAXed Out” will have up to 50 members - that's a total of up to 200 children from the region. These numbers will be flexible, and entirely dependent on the quality of candidates during the workshop audition tour.

What will happen in the workshops?

REGIONAL CHILDRENS CHOIR – music skills development workshops will be conducted by the Artistic Director Michelle Leonard during school hours as part of a 16 day schools tour of the region. Children will be part of a fun and interactive singing and percussive skills workshop as a group, usually a separate workshop for the boys and girls. As part of this workshop Michelle will listen to each child to hear their capacity to sing in tune with a clear natural voice. Children will not be asked to prepare anything prior to the audition. They may be asked to sing, clap, or hum back passages during the process, and may eventually be asked to sing as part of a smaller group during the workshop. It is designed to be a fun and relaxed approach to tap into the hidden vocal talents of each child!

ALL students are capable of being part of the workshop and audition process, as often the least likely candidates show the most natural promise!

MAXed OUT students will be asked to participate in a series of improvisations using body percussion and voice conducted by Artistic Director Michelle Leonard. Candidates will be chosen on musical aptitude, attitude, creative capacity and artistic flexibility.

MOORAMBILLA RESIDENCY CAMPS
Regional Girls Choir Camp August 15-18
Regional Boys Choir Camp August 18-21
Regional MAXed Out Camp August 22-26
Combined* Regional Choir Camp
Girls & Boys and MAXed Out: 18-22 September
* Girls and boys will be housed in separate areas of the campsite with appropriate supervision