

"Heart of Australia"

A tribute to the beating heart of this great country.

Performed by.

Tarryn Stokes

Media Release 14 February 2024

"HEART OF AUSTRALIA" - AN ANTHEM FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

Sing Along with Tarryn Stokes -- Winner of The Voice (Australia) 2023

Hearts Beat STRONG™



The song inspired the [Heart of Australia \(26 October\)](#) – Inspire, Celebrate & Unite. Each year our "Journey to the Heart" celebrations officially start on 14 February and culminates on 26 October.

Pilot Program - Brighton Grammar School (2023)

In 2023, we initiated a pilot program by inviting the Boys Choir at Brighton Grammar School to learn and perform the song, Heart of Australia. Hayley Blakiston, Head of Junior School Music, Acting Head of Choral ultimately stated that *"...the boys loved learning and singing it."*



Journey to the Heart (2024) - HeartsBeatSTRONG™

This year for our [Journey to the Heart](#) we will start inviting schools from all around Australia to learn and perform the "Heart of Australia" by singing along with Tarryn Stokes so their "HeartsBeatSTRONG™".

Schools can register to receive a HeartsBeatSTRONG™ package to learn & perform the song. During the year, each school can also receive learning tools and information regarding listening to the intelligence of the heart to give voice to what we truly love about each other and these lands & celebrate all that's good in this world....



The song is receiving positive reviews:

Marcia Hines AM said, *"Strong lyrics and incredibly heart felt."*

Robert Bleakley, Developer and owner of the Verona Cinema Complex *"Congratulations on your great achievement, perhaps a new national anthem"*.

Tottie Goldsmith OAM said, *"On the first listen I had goose-bumps and on the second listen I was singing it like she was an old friend. The true sign of a classic and it made me feel proud to be an Ozzie. I only wish Olivia could hear it.... or maybe she can ... Just beautiful and congratulations."*

Dean Carey, Head of Acting at two of Australia's most prestigious schools: *"What a song! It captures so much and encompasses so very much. It calls to heart, first nation, the now nation, and everyone, with a combined sense of wonder and gratitude about the fact we all live on this great, great and ancient land. It is superb and just like Peter Allen's, 'I Still Call Australia Home', or Sarah McLauchlan's song, 'In the Arms of An Angel', it captures true heart, mystery and magic."*

Grace Forrest, Founder of Walk Free, *"I appreciate you taking the time to share the 'Heart of Australia' song with me – it's truly lovely."*

The song, "Heart of Australia" was written by Anatole Kononewsky and multi-platinum award-winning producers Adrian Hannan & Barbara Hannan. The song expresses the beauty of the Australian open, welcoming spirit of its people, paying tribute to the beating heart of the country.

"The song gives voice to what we truly love about each other and these lands — to celebrate all that's good in this world" says, Anatole Kononewsky.

Heart Connections — Nurturing Our Present & Emerging Custodians (2024)

The song also inspired "[Heart Connections](#)", launched in 2023 – an initiative showcasing people whose ideas and activities inspire us — whose efforts unite and help lead the way – we actively promote the special work they do in our communities. During 2024 the aim is to continue to generate awareness and public support for the Heart Connections individuals and groups. (See our Heart Connections below.)

The vision is to bring together Australia's rich and diverse peoples of all ages and cultures to listen to your heart.

Heart Awards for Young People (2024)

On the 26 October 2024 we will be announcing the launch of the Heart Awards. Supporting Generation Z and young people to express the heart of Australia through art forms, and/or provide fresh solutions, to benefit these lands and its unique blend of peoples.

The original Heart of Australia team worked closely with Yorta Yorta man, Tiriki Onus during 2019 to 2020 on the mission and vision of the project and the song was released on 26 October 2022. As Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Arts & Culture at the Victorian College of the Arts and Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development Tiriki's advice and ongoing support has been invaluable.

Indigenous Peoples & Multicultural Country

Australia is home to Earth's oldest living continuous culture, with more than 250 Indigenous languages and 800 dialects. Our successful multicultural nation is the most ethnically diverse country in the world, with 26% of Australians born overseas and 49% having at least one parent born overseas, along with 100 religions and 300 ethnic groups in our cultural melting pot.

heartofaustraliaday.com

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Heart of Australia

An Anthem for all Australians

- ♥ *"What a luminous work. I vote 1 for our national anthem."* Sumitra Phoenix, Music Teacher
- ♥ *"Wow! Such a beautiful song. I wish this was our national anthem."* Mandy Geddes, Director, Institute of Executive Coaching & Leadership
- ♥ *"It's beautiful! It has anthem written all over it!!"* Bronny Lane, Founder & Director of Little Train Creative
- ♥ *"Definitely an anthem song for all Australians. Great song."* Chris Doney, Managing Director of IT-Spark



Comments International celebrities

International Comments



"Anatole, I shared it with others who simply loved it! Thank you so much!"

Phylicia Rashad, USA

Acclaimed singer, director, and actress who has appeared in stage, film, and television productions – is currently the Dean of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard University. A critically acclaimed stage director, Rashad has led productions at prestigious venues throughout the United States. Respected in the academic world, Rashad was the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University, and has been bestowed with numerous honorary doctorate degrees.



"It's absolutely lovely, thank you for sharing..."

Carol Maillard, Sweet Honey in the Rock, USA

Founding member of the legendary group Sweet Honey in the Rock, 1973. Have had three Grammy nominations, won their first in 1989. Performed at the White House in 2009 for First Lady Michelle and President Barack Obama. Performed at the National Memorial Service for Nelson Mandela at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC in 2013. The group has produced over fifteen albums. Carol is also an accomplished actress and has performed in film, television, cabaret and on stage.

International Comments



"My wholehearted gratitude for sharing your beautiful song and video! And I love your invite to come together and all give voice for what truly unites us."

Jude Currivan PhD, UK

Dr Jude Currivan is a cosmologist, planetary healer, futurist, author, previously one of the most senior business women in the UK and co-founder of WholeWorld-View.



"Wow... Amazing! Beautiful work... Congratulations"

Dame Doria Cordova, PhD, USA

CEO, Global Business Developer, Sustainability Entrepreneur, owner Excellerated Business School for Entrepreneurs. a global platform that has nearly 200,000 graduates since 1979 from over 85 countries.

"Many thanks for sharing the song with us. It's beautiful and inspirational."

Sara Childre, President / CEO & Rollin McCraty Ph.D.,
Director of Research at the HeartMath Institute

"Thank you for sharing the song. It is beautiful..."

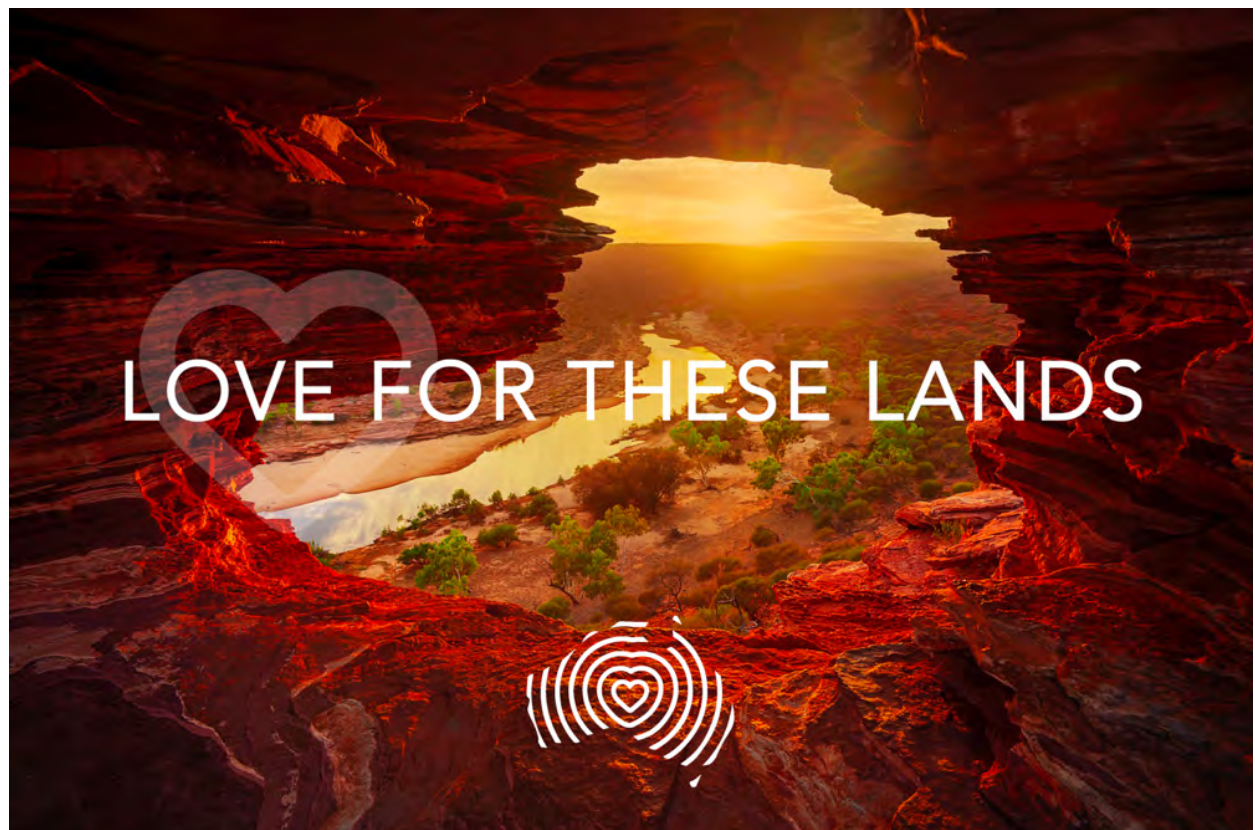
Pablo Sender PhD, Author, Theosophical
Scholar & International Presenter



International Comments

"Beautiful song, I kept putting America in for Australia because it felt right..."

Professional Chef (Culinary Arts) student at Delgado
Community College, New Orleans, LA, USA, 2023



Heart Connections (2023)

Heart Connections – [Issue 1](#): Dwayne Bannon-Harrison - Ngaran Ngaran Cultural Awareness



Provides a powerful experience of indigenous food, ceremony and more — seeks to help change the narrative and shift mindsets by sharing Indigenous ways of knowing — allowing others to glimpse the power of ancient wisdoms — programs are designed to help participants reach greater wellness in mind, body and spirit. Features Dwayne Bannon-Harrison founder of Ngaran Ngaran Cultural Awareness programs — a Yuin-Ngarrigu man with connections to the Yorta-Yorta, Dja Dja Warrung, Watchabolic and Gunai language groups, who offers powerful experiences of indigenous food, ceremony and more, 'connecting up people to ancient wifa'.

CONNECT: [Ngaran Ngaran Cultural Awareness](#)

Heart Connections – [Issue 2](#): Nic Marchesi OAM & Lucas Patchett OAM – Orange Sky



Provides a free mobile laundry service for homeless people — it's about creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored, or who feel disconnected. Nic Marchesi, a former a camera operator and editor for the ABC and Seven Network who, along with Lucas Patchett hatched the idea to throw two washing machines and dryers in the back of an old van in Brisbane to offer free laundry services to those in need, and now operates in 25 locations nationwide with over 3,000 volunteers.

Orange Sky isn't about solving the issue of homelessness or saving people, it's about creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored, or who feel disconnected."

CONNECT: [Orange Sky](#)

Heart Connections – [Issue 3](#): The late Sonia Gidley-King (Founder) & Lorraine Sutton (Chairperson) - Wrap with Love




Provides knitted squares made into blankets for those in need — millions of people across the planet suffer extreme cold through poverty, war, earthquakes, homelessness, climate issues and more.


Australian victims of floods and fire, refugees and the homeless, and the indigenous communities of the APY Lands (between Adelaide and Darwin) have also been some of the many local recipients of these colourful blankets.

CONNECT: [Wrap with Love](#)

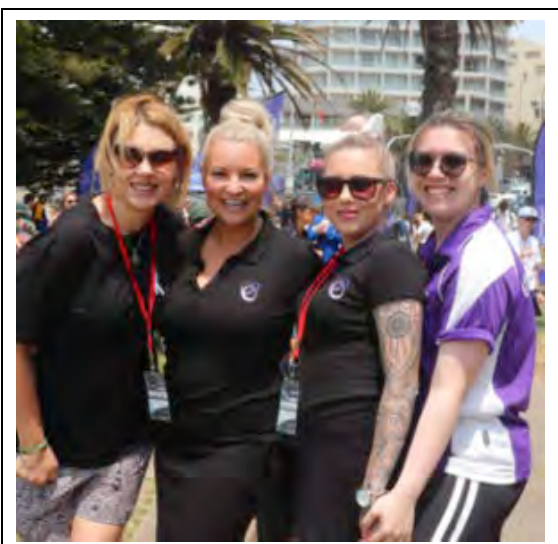
Heart Connections – [Issue 4](#): Janine Wood JP, Belinda Hawes & Debbie Jordaan - NO Limits Perth

	<p>Provides essential emergency support services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people across Perth's northern suburbs. The assistance No Limits Perth offers, can be anything from basics such as food, transport, furniture, hygiene and personal items, to helping individuals and families find emergency accommodation. No Limits Perth also advocates for those in need.</p> <p>Uniquely, all items donated to No Limits Perth by the community are distributed without any cost.</p> <p>CONNECT: No Limits Perth</p>
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Heart Connections – [Issue 5](#): Helen Callanan - Preparing the Way

	<p>Preparing the Way is a training organisation dedicated exclusively to end of life doula care. We are committed to transforming how people support others at the end of life. Doula is an ancient word of Greek origin, meaning one who serves.</p> <p>'Our end of life doulas help demystify death, and have a non-clinical role, providing mental, physical, emotional and spiritual support to those nearing the end of their lives, and to those close to them.'</p> <p>CONNECT: Preparing the Way</p>
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Heart Connections – [Issue 6](#): Ken Marslew AM - Enough is Enough

	<p>Our mission is to reform society's attitudes to violence. Enough is Enough works with individuals and groups to encourage them to take personal responsibility for their actions and aims to promote violence prevention strategies in society as a whole. Almost thirty years ago Ken Marslew founded Enough is Enough, an organisation designed to tackle the violence currently experienced in our communities, by encouraging people to take responsibility for their actions.</p> <p>There are many reasons, Ken has learned, why people offend. Overall, he believes, the cause can be summarised as hurt people hurt people. Ken has made it his mission to deal with this hurt.</p> <p>CONNECT: Enough is Enough</p>
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The Lighthouse Foundation has created several different programs to meet the different needs of homeless children. The Lighthouse Foundation has assisted more than 1100 young people and continues to expand their reach. It's about opening up opportunities so others can help out. Established to assist homeless young people, the Foundation has been going for more than thirty years.

Lighthouse has created several different programs to meet the different needs of homeless children. Therapeutic homes provide 24/7 live-in care and a dedicated Therapeutic Case Manager to help highly vulnerable young people to heal from the trauma they have experienced and develop practical life skills.

CONNECT: [Lighthouse Foundation](#)

For more information visit <https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com>

Heart Connections: <https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com/heart-connections/>

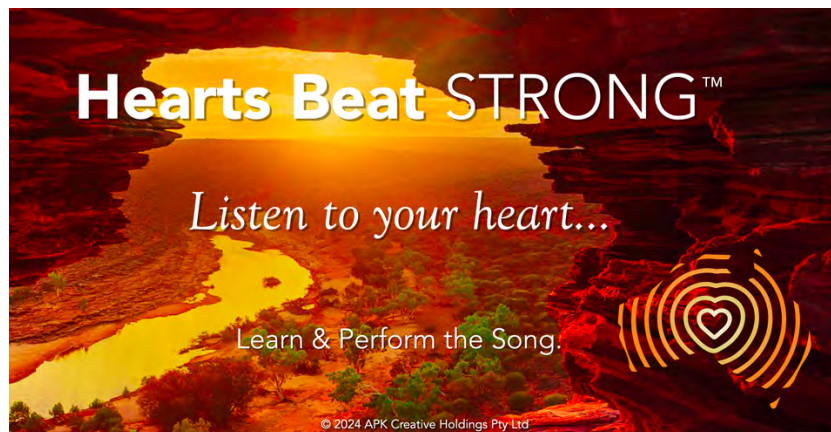
"Heart of Australia" Song: <https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com/listen-to-the-heart/>

We respectfully acknowledge the First Nations peoples of these lands, we now all call home. The ingenuity, strength and diversity of Indigenous cultures enriches us all and we aspire to walk together, as a community, honouring the deep and profound foundations that they have laid for us.



The composers wish to acknowledge the song was written on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We sincerely hope that our work does justice to the thousands of generations of song-people that have gone before us on this country.

Initiatives (2024)



Heart Awards for Young People (To be Announced - 26 October 2024)

Inspiring a deeper understanding of these unique lands and cultures, by providing creative possibilities and/or a practical solution to a current issue, the Heart Awards for Young People submissions may include:

- An initiative preserving an aspect of Indigenous culture that might otherwise have been lost to future generations.
- A new solution to an environmental issue.
- A creative art form and/or expression that celebrates the heart of these lands and cultures, heritage and future.
- A fresh approach to a current community challenge.

Respecting ourselves, each other and these lands.