

Jeff Buckley legacy inspires guitars for Melbourne schools



'Patricia Pesamino (front) with (l-r) Chelsea Turner, Riyani Lowen and Jessica Brown.
Photo: Scott McNaughton. Courtesy Fairfax Community Newspapers'

In the last issue of *Music Forum*, we introduced you to Amanda Armstrong, the Melbourne music lover and Jeff Buckley fan who put her energy behind 'Music. Play for Life', became a first-time concert promoter and purchased guitars for four local schools with the proceeds, so that worthy students can continue their music making journey.

Amanda made the campaign the recipient of her fundraising efforts because she loves music and wanted to be able to do something to light the musical spark for some local young people who otherwise might not have access to high quality instruments.

We are delighted to report that the guitars are now being lovingly and enthusiastically played by their custodians – four Melbourne schoolgirls (yes, every school nominated a girl!).

The four recipient schools and 'custodian' students were presented their guitars at a handover event at the aMuse offices in Melbourne. They are:

Chelsea Turner, year 8, Thomastown Secondary College;

Patricia Pesamino, year 10, Braybrook College;

Jessica Brown, year 11, Doveton Secondary College and

Riyani Lowen, grade 6, Narre Warren P-12.

Congratulations to them all.

The handover was covered by the local papers for each of the four schools, with some great, supportive coverage for the campaign.

We will keep you up to date with the girls' progress as well as Amanda Armstrong's plans to extend the fundraising program next year. Stay tuned for all the gig notices!