



September 2008

Welcome to the Music. Play for Life campaign newsletter, issued to campaign supporters on a regular basis to bring new achievements, updates and stories from around the country. You can click through for detailed information on the campaign's website www.musicforlife.org

Music. Count Us In

We are well on the way to breaking last year's participation record, with almost 750 schools already registered for Australia's biggest school music event, 'Music. Count Us In.' You can see the current list of registered schools at www.musiccountusin.org.au. You can also download the professional development kit for primary generalist teachers, order a version of the song in Braille, watch a short video of kids at Gordon Primary School learning the song and download sheet music of the song for just about any conceivable school music scenario: orchestra, rock band, choir, percussion, even uke class! The national team of trainers currently delivering the professional learning around the song to primary school teachers is on the move around Australia, including Robert Pascoe, one of the music tutors on WA's Instrumental Music program. He's packing up the four wheel drive with instruments and recording gear and

heading from Broome to Fitzroy Crossing. He'll make his base at Fitzroy and travel out hundreds of kilometers each day, getting kids and teachers involved in the initiative at some of WA's most remote schools.

Check out all the news on 'Music. Count Us In' at www.musiccountusin.org.au.

And look out for the 30 second Community Service Announcement featuring John Foreman and the Gordon Primary students, about to start airing soon on Channel TEN!



Music. Count Us In' is the cover story for the current issue of Music in Action magazine, which goes to every school in Australia



Last year students from Virginia Farm State School - Queensland, were among more than 200,000 who took part in Music. Count Us In

"At Fairvale High, we are planning to run a "special assembly in the cola" and invite the whole school down at 11:30am Thursday Oct 23 [Still in planning due to HSC exams] with local press and Directors...I will even email australian idol. The Whole 250 of Year 7 will be performing - 80 glockenspiels and the other 170 students will be singing, with a year 11 rock band accompanying them. The boys particularly enjoy singing the LA LA LA LA part in the chorus and we are having a lot of fun with that."
Greg Thwaites, Head Teacher Performing Arts & Languages, Fairvale High School, NSW

Excellent: Awards highlight best teachers and pro-music principals

As we gear up to putting music education on the front pages as part of 'Music. Count Us In' and creating more awareness about the benefits of school music, we sing the praises of some exemplary teachers and principals putting music first.

Heartfelt congratulations go to all winners in the 2008 National Awards for Excellence in School Music Education. In particular, we single out for mention the two 'School Leader' Award winners, WA's Matthew Hughes and VIC's Regina Byrne

Regina Byrne, Principal, Mt St Joseph Girls' College, Altona, VIC



At the time of nomination, Regina had been Principal at Mount St Joseph Girls' College, a Catholic secondary college in the west of Melbourne, for the past 6 years. (Regina is now the new principal at Sacred Heart College, Newtown, where she will doubtless continue her pro-music work). While at Mount St Joseph's Regina transformed the school with major building projects and refurbishments of older facilities. The school is now renowned for its state of the art technology and innovative approach to the delivery of curriculum. With a teaching background in music, Regina continued to teach in the classroom, developed the Instrumental Program, initiated and developed school bands and continued to play at all major school assemblies and performances when required. A guitar is a favourite accessory for Rowena and she's recently gone public with her admiration for Bon Jovi.

Awards organisers cite Regina's clear impact on the life of her school: "It is obvious that Regina has lead from the front in relation to the development of the music department in both curriculum and the physical environment. The students are proud of their 'rockstar' Principal and hold her in high regard. "

Mr Matthew Hughes, Principal, John Septimus Roe (JSR) Anglican Community School, Mirrabooka, WA

Matthew has played a significant role in establishing Music as a valued, high-profile, rewarding activity at the school, gaining generous funding for hire instruments and vigorously promoting the music program. A recent major achievement is the Year 5 Band Program which gives each student a new instrument and a weekly group instrumental lesson: this is timetabled and free. A similar

strings program will operate for all Year 2 students from next year. Awards organisers say Matthew is following through by becoming a music learner, too. "Matthew has enriched the teaching program and raised the status of Music in the school by his personal demonstrated commitment to the work of the department. He is present at every concert, has recently joined the Secondary Choir and even commenced clarinet lessons."



The full Awards Honour roll is:

School Teacher - Special Commendation:
QLD - Ms Jacquelyn Conn, Geebung Special School

School Leader Award - Special Commendation:
VIC, Ms Regina Byrne, Mt St Joseph Girls' College, Altona.

School Leader award: WA - Mr Matthew Hughes, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School

School Teacher Awards (alphabetically by state)

ACT - Ms Carolyn (Caz) Soeters, Jervis Bay Primary School

NSW -Mr Ashley George, Tara Anglican School for Girls, &

Mrs Jenny Robinson, Randwick Girls' High School

NT - Mrs Julie-Ann Watson

Nakara Primary School/NT Music School NT Music School

QLD - Miss Janette Kelly, St Hilda's School

SA - Ms Elizabeth Harlock-Lea, Fremont Elizabeth City High School &

Ms Janice Leahy, Para Hills High School

VIC - Mrs Jennifer Meachem, Camberwell Girls Grammar School &

Mrs Mary Needham, Elwood College

WA - Mrs Leonie Cecich, East Victoria Park Education Support Centre

More on all winners at <http://musicawards.asme.edu.au/scripts/profile2008.php?id=all>



..And while on the subject of Awards for terrific music teachers, Joan Jones, long-time music teacher at Melton Secondary College in VIC, one of the campaign's Guitars for Schools participant schools, has won an Above and Beyond Award for her community work. Presented last month by Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, the Award recognises Joan's work in helping to create a community spirit among her students by taking them out to perform at local kindergartens, nursing homes, retirement villages, CWA gatherings,

schools, Shire Council events and the like. "They get to see another side of Melton and they get to be appreciated for their efforts and the hours of practice they put in," she said. After 22 years, Joan is as enthusiastic about teaching as ever and never misses an opportunity to advocate a musical life. "Music creates a balance in your life. It doesn't matter whether you're a doctor or lawyer: if you've got music in your life you'll find you have a better balance."

"The only thing better than singing is more singing." - Ella Fitzgerald

Eyes to the horizon for music sector

Training their sights on Australia's musical future, 100 music sector leaders have just met to propose actions for ensuring a vibrant future for Australian music and musical life. The meeting was called by the MCA to follow through on the Rudd 2020 summit.

Key issues included the future of the music industry in the face of the upheaval associated with music online; the barriers to every Australian child receiving a good music education and the poor recognition and resourcing of 'community music'.

Urged by the MCA's executive director, Dr Richard Letts, to 'look to the horizon', Summiteers came up with recommendations which will be taken to the MCA's Annual Assembly later this month for action. These included proposals to:

- Organise a gathering of key thinkers to develop ideas to better exploit the new opportunities created by digital technologies and outflank the current difficulties for musicians and the recording industry.
- Mount a national campaign to increase support for Australian music through the reinforcement of Australian content in all electronic media, a national Australian Music Day, Australian support acts on tours by foreign artists, fostering live Australian music at all levels – from pubs to concert halls...
- Develop more comprehensive research programs to combat a lack of factual information to guide action and support advocacy.
- Build exports and the international profile of Australian music through a

comprehensive scheme of collaboration between the music sector and relevant government departments: building export income, supporting international careers for artists, stimulating inbound musical tourism, including music in diplomacy.

- Realise greater recognition, visibility, networking and recognition for music making in communities by establishing a national community music network, developing mutually beneficial connections with school music, and initiating a national community music week with a symposium and awards, feeding into the production of a TV documentary series.
- Deal decisively with the desperate situation of music in state primary schools where only 2 out of 10 children get a satisfactory music education, as compared with 9 out of 10 in independent schools. Address the even worse situation in early childhood education where there is no requirement for music. Hold the Rudd government to its election promises to act to implement the recommendations of the National Review of School Music Education.

You can see the ideas take shape first hand by attending the Music Council's Annual Assembly, in Adelaide, 28-29 September. More at www.mca.org.au

Stuck on you

Request your stickers and posters at: emma.mpfl@mca.org.au. These are provided FREE. Tell us how many you need, for what purpose ('Sing' or 'Play') and where you need them sent.



MFE on a roll

Music For Everyone (MFE), the ACT's community music organisation, is on a roll. Fresh from success as a finalist in the campaign's Music in Communities Awards, MFE has won in both categories in which it was nominated in the 2008 ACT Adult Community Education Awards, held as part of Adult Learners Week.

Julie Wright, tutor and director of the Music For Everyone Program of music for people

In addition to her work at MFE with adults with disabilities, Julie also runs Sing & Grow programs for families with children aged 0-3. She recently penned an article for PlayGroup ACT about the importance of music in early childhood.

"In early childhood, children undergo a huge learning curve. Music is one of the best learning mediums because it can address the whole spectrum of developmental needs i.e. physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Music games can be used to develop

with disabilities, was the winner of the Outstanding Teacher/Tutor Award, and the Program of music for people with disabilities also won Outstanding Program Award.

"Music For Everyone is thrilled that the exceptional work and achievements of this important program and the contribution of its dedicated director, Julie Wright, have been recognised by these awards," said Vivienne Winther, MFE's Director.

Congrats to all at MFE!

coordination and body-spatial awareness, and to teach concepts such as colours, numbers, seasons and body parts. Singing helps with speech and with building vocabulary. Music also helps develop skills such as listening, cueing, focusing attention, turn-taking and sharing. Music games give children a chance to lead, make choices and solve problems. All of this leads to a child who has an awareness of self as well as others and who is therefore more likely to be happy and confident. What more could we want for our children?"

Early childhood enquiry

Which is a great way in to news of a Commonwealth enquiry currently underway into early childhood, presenting an opportunity for those of us that care – all of us! – to get some recognition of the role and importance of music education in the early years as a precursor to a K-12 music education.

The submission period closes September 19th so be quick. Submissions are based on a pro forma so it shouldn't take too long to complete. Make the case for more music and better teacher training in music for teachers in pre-school education.

http://www.dest.gov.au:80/sectors/early_childhood/policy_initiatives_reviews/coag/discussion.htm

For a good summary of early childhood music education, visit the MCA's wiki-esque online Knowledge base and click on 'NEW' for MCA Councillor and MPFL stalwart Rhonda Davidson-Irwin's summary on early childhood music education. It ends with a great checklist to help inform your submission:

'Effective music education begins with participation and enjoyment and moves through extension and expertise'. [National Review of School Music Education, p 80] If we are to value music education in the early years and to recognise and understand how to plan and implement and encourage participation a number of challenges are presented:



Pink or Punk? Early music learning can help create happy, confident children.

- Adequate funding in Early Childhood Music education
- An equal footing with other arts areas, equity and engagement
- Adequate hours at tertiary and training level
- Teacher knowledge, understanding and skills
- An understanding of music learning outcomes
- Curriculum and Resource development
- Parental and community support
- Support for teachers and caregivers
- Partnerships with early childhood music organisations
- Base planning, implementation and evaluation of music education through curriculum and policy."