

IN TUNE NATURALLY



DIOCESAN VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL DAYS 2015

On Friday 20/3/15 vocalists and musicians headed to Forbes for the performance day associated with the annual Diocesan Vocal and Instrumental workshops. This was the second of two days. The first hosted by St Stanislaus College earlier this month allowed the students to rehearse and prepare a variety of pieces in various styles and in numerous ensembles. We were fortunate to have access to a brand new performing arts facility at Red Bend Catholic College for our performance day. Their venue had only been opened for a couple of days in the lead up to the workshop and we certainly gave the spaces a suitable test drive. Our sincere thanks go to Stannies and Red Bend for their hospitality and support in hosting both the rehearsal and performance days.

The workshops were run for the following groups and MacKillop had representatives in each of the following groups:

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|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Orchestra | Concert Band |
| Vocal Group | Guitar Group (and various percussion) |
| Drum Group | Stage Band |

We are lucky to have a number of teachers in the Diocese who are experienced conductors in a variety of musical styles and we also have the support of the Mitchell Conservatorium and other musical agencies that provide accompanists and expert instructors on various instruments. Our students are very lucky to have this opportunity to work with their peers from different schools and also to experience the different conducting and directing styles of the staff involved.

The concert was well supported by MacKillop parents and we thank those who attended for taking the time to travel to Forbes on a Friday afternoon to support their girls. Our students presented well and were fully involved in all aspects of the two days. Even though our day had a delayed start the students remained in good spirits throughout and were part of the most efficient McDonalds stop I have ever witnessed with a group of more than 50 students. They committed to the pack up of equipment on our return to school, which allowed everyone to get home without delay. Thanks girls for your excellent involvement over the course of both days.

I would also like to thank the staff from all schools that assisted and in particular the staff from Mackillop College. Mrs Auhl is a driving force for this event and her efforts have been mammoth for a number of years to organise every last detail of this successful two days. As always, Mrs Cannon was generous with her time and spent her two days with Mr Hughes and the orchestra. Her work with the violin section in particular was much appreciated, taking the time to modify and arrange parts to make them more suitable for all players.

We are working with a very talented group of musicians in our own band, orchestra and choir. We would also like to encourage students to be involved. So if you are thinking of joining one of these ensembles come along and talk to Mr Hughes or Mrs Cannon. We are currently looking to place students on Keyboard parts, Bass parts and our percussionists would love another set of hands. So if you have rhythm come and give it a go!

Rehearsal times are as follows:

- Concert Band – Tuesday – 8am
- Choir – Wednesday – 8.10am
- Orchestra – Thursday – 8am

Ensemble members are reminded to be on time for rehearsals. We have limited time and need to use every available minute. There are performances on the horizon so every minute is important to ensure quality music from our MacKillop ensembles.

Mr Paul Hughes (Director of Music)



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