



A fundraiser for the  
communities affected  
by the  
Victorian Bushfires

# Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

Written, compiled and edited by Deborah Smith

May 2009

## Welcome to our fifth Newsletter: All the amazing Stories...

Current fundraising total: **\$22972.90!**

One of the nicest things about being involved in a fundraiser such as this one, particularly where musicians are involved, is rediscovering how wonderful people can be, and yes I am including secondary school age students in this group!

A few weeks ago I went to check the fundraiser's post office box which I do every week but have to admit there is often not anything in there. (This is more due to the wonders of modern banking, EFT in particular, and email than any lack of correspondence). This particular visit offered up an envelope from De La Salle College. Opening it I found a completely unexpected cheque for almost \$500. This was raised by a group of Year 10 Music Industry students and shows all of us how simple it can be to incorporate fundraising into any such existing music event. (See → for more information).

At the other extreme of organisation required, are the amazing MYM concerts held in early April which raised an astounding \$7909! See page 5 for the full report on these fantastic concert events.

Regards and thank you all for being involved, Deborah

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**Next Newsletter's Focus: Doing great  
but don't stop now..**

## Come and help make a marimba!

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, a group of parents, teachers, children and interested adults will be making two marimbas – one for the Hurstbridge Co-operative School and one for Strathewen Primary School, both communities affected by the bushfires. As well as being a practical way to support bushfire survivors, it's also a chance to find out about the marimba-making process: make an instrument in a day using Jon Madin's book [Make Your Own Marimbas](#) (available from VOSA Sales). These workshops are a great community activity.

Everyone is welcome to come along and be part of this workshop day, to be held in Hurstbridge. Please contact Heather McLaughlin on [heathermmc@gmail.com](mailto:heathermmc@gmail.com) or ring 0425 757 641 for further details about the day.

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## De La Salle College Report

On April 26<sup>th</sup> the Year 10 Music Industry class continued the tradition of hosting a music night to raise money for charity. This semester the class decided to support "Rebuilding Communities through Music". The event was a huge success with 5 excellent bands to entertain the enthusiastic crowd, including outstanding performances by **Ninth Neighbourhood**, **The Lukas Vassey** and De La rock veterans **The Choice Cuts**. The evening raised almost \$500 for the fundraiser. Congratulations to the students for their excellent preparation and enthusiasm in running this event.

## A Day of Healing Music Festival

While casually checking the emails at home one evening, I was glancing through an email sent to my husband about a local bushfire concert to be held in Eltham. Big names were playing, Daryl Braithwaite, Kate Ceberano, Boom Crash Opera, a fabulous line up. Reading through the names I discovered my school listed alongside these legends of rock. We were one of the headline acts and no one had told me!

After picking myself off the floor, a hasty investigation led me to a dynamic man called Ben Brazil. He had an idea to have a festival not to specifically fundraise but to provide a get together to enjoy music – A Day of Healing. The line-up was to include all tastes from young to old; even my fifteen year old son was impressed.

I found out our involvement on the day was to sing a beautiful song called 'Lest We Forget' written by Cam Tapp. Cam envisioned recording and releasing the song with the proceeds of sales going to the three schools destroyed in the fires. So within the week Ben, Cam, Georgina (a parent from Strathewen Primary School) and Matt (a sound engineer) travelled to Marysville, Strathewen and Middle Kinglake schools to teach us the song and to record the children singing.

Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> came, there were two stages working nonstop all day, with the likes of Daryl Braithwaite and Boom Crash Opera strutting their stuff, and us. The three schools were to be the finale singing with Cam Tapp and Kate Ceberano.

As the festival drew closer to the end, the rain and drizzle finally stopped. The crowd swelled to 5000, waiting for the finale. Then a brave group of about 100 children stood on the main stage in front all those people and sang their hearts out. Even the children who crumbled during the rehearsal earlier that afternoon sang with beaming smiles. They were having fun and doing something very special. They left the stage on a high, to the cheers of the crowd.

Thanks have to be made to Ben and Cam for the opportunity given to the children. The children enjoyed themselves. I have no doubt they have been very much a part of the healing power of music.

The song will be released in May. You can check out the song and the children's performance out on 'You Tube', "Lest We Forget – Bushfire Concert".

Catherine James (Music Teacher, Middle Kinglake Primary School)



Middle Kinglake Primary students on the day of rehearsals and with Cam Tapp rehearsing.

## CAULFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S VISIT TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, our "No Strings Attached" Stage Band, conducted by Mr. Joe O'Callaghan, had the privilege of journeying to Marysville Primary School, currently operating out of Taggerty Primary School, to perform a concert for students and staff from Marysville Primary affected by the recent Victorian bushfires.

We have all seen images and heard reports of how devastating the fires were, but it is not until you travel through an area burnt by the fires that you gain a clear understanding of just how widespread and damaging these fires were. The distance from Healesville to Taggerty is about 46kms and for this part of the journey we drove through forests, townships and farming areas all devastated by the fire. Evidence of the fires was also visible for as far as you could see. It was this journey that put into perspective the size and ferocity of the recent fires.

We arrived at Taggerty Primary School and quickly set the band up in a portable classroom positioned in the middle of the oval. You could easily kick a goal from the front step of the portable! Soon, the entire population of Marysville Primary School (about 30 students) were escorted by their staff and Principal Mrs. Peri Dix into the portable for the concert. The look of joy and expectation on their faces in no way reflected the hardship experienced by these kids. They had lost their school, some had lost their homes and others tragically had lost friends and family members.

The first piece played by the band was met with great enthusiasm, including the usual covering of ears by the younger kids because the music was so loud. There were plenty of smiles and looks of wonder by some who weren't quite sure what the big gold, shiny thing was in the front row of the band. There seemed to be a number of them but the big one was by the far the most interesting sound - yes, a Baritone Saxophone.

With humour, Mr. O'Callaghan engaged the Maryville kids with plenty of questions about what they could see and hear. If you have ever worked with primary aged kids you would be aware that some responses can be funny, imaginative and interesting. Here are two responses that can be printed!

Mr. O'Callaghan: *"How do you make a sound on a trumpet?"* Student: *"You spit in it."*

Mr. O'Callaghan to a little grade one boy with his hands over his ears: *"Was the band playing too loud?"*  
Student: *"The music was so loud I thought my eyes were going to blow out."*

All too soon the concert came to an end, but not before the final piece that included a percussion section made up of 5 Marysville students. Clearly they loved the opportunity to play with the band.

All members of the band are to be congratulated for their efforts in providing such an interesting and varied concert for the Marysville students and staff. A great opportunity for our students to give a little to students who have lost so much.

Next time, I would allow more time so we could stop and purchase pancakes at the Taggerty Pancake Restaurant that is operating out of a bright orange tent outside the remains of the original restaurant.

My sincere thanks go to band director Mr. Joe O'Callaghan, all student members of the band and School Head of Music Mrs. Sharon Meehan who accompanied the band to Taggerty. A special thank you to Catriona Bauld 2009 Caulfield Campus Music Co-Captain for suggesting we do something practical to help those affected by the recent fires.

Places we passed through are already demonstrating evidence of rebuilding and new growth in their communities and this was symbolized by the extensive re-growth in the crown of the tree ferns and on the trunks of blackened, charred trees in the forest areas.

David Summerton, Caulfield Campus Head of Music

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## FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN MAY

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009

Woodleigh School presents the Year 10 – 12 *Musicale* at 7.30pm. This evening features performances by the schools' senior choirs, ensembles and VCE Music performance students. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments and donations at the door will go to "Rebuilding Communities through Music".

For further details contact Cathy Holt on [cholt@woodleigh.vic.edu.au](mailto:cholt@woodleigh.vic.edu.au)

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# Music Council of Australia Resound Bushfire Appeal News

## Round 1 Deliveries

Almost two months to the day after the Black Saturday fires, Resound began its first round of deliveries for the many musicians and organisations affected by the bushfires. Over 50 instruments were distributed, based on applications submitted through the MCA website by many including case-workers and volunteers acting on behalf of survivors. Instruments were collected from generous donors who had pledged during the previous weeks. Many of the instruments came with a history or a heartfelt-written card. Generally the condition of the instruments was reliable and these were a mixture of second-hand and new donations. Donations and pledges have come from all over the country making this a truly national appeal. The high offer of pledges allowed for choice in instruments donated, resulting generally in a good match for each applicant – a number of applicants were surprised at how close the match was to their lost instrument. The instruments that were delivered in this round ranged from bagpipes, to woodwinds, keyboards, brass, strings, percussion, plus a lot of children’s instruments. Fire-affected areas represented by applicants include Callignee, Clondibane, Flowerdale, Humevale, Kinglake, Marysville, St Andrews, Strathewan, Traralgon. (See next column for photos).

The Resound Bushfire Appeal has now gratefully received a Bushfire Relief Grant from the Victorian government to assist with the project. We are still receiving many applications on a daily basis and expect this to continue for some time. In particular, we need the following instruments in good working order:

- drum kits
- electric guitars with amps and leads
- acoustic guitars
- keyboards

If you are able to pledge an instrument, or donate time/money to this project, please contact Rachel [rhocking@mca.org.au](mailto:rhocking@mca.org.au)



At the DRMC: Tracy, Bev, and Rachel (L to R)



Packed trailer full of instruments for first round of deliveries

## Rebuilding Communities through Music

PO BOX 610 Heidelberg VIC 3084

Contact Details for this appeal:

Deborah Smith Ph 0421 825 302

Email: [deborahsmith@aapt.net.au](mailto:deborahsmith@aapt.net.au)

## **Melbourne Youth Music Concert Report**

On Saturday and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April, Melbourne Youth Music presented two concerts in the Iwaki Auditorium, Southbank. As the bushfires had affected a substantial number of Saturday Music staff & students, the MYM Committee felt it was only appropriate that the proceeds of these concerts go towards “**Rebuilding Communities through Music**”.

### **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

#### **Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony, Melbourne Youth Strings & Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra present “Helping Hands”**

On the Saturday night, three Saturday Music groups performed in MYM’s ‘*Helping Hand*’ concert. The **Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony** made its debut & under the direction of **Craig Fullerton**, performed a varied & challenging program of works by Swearingen, Holsinger, Vaughan Williams & Sousa. Together with newly appointed manager **Karen Heath** [herself a victim of the bushfires] the band made a big impression on their supporters in the sell out audience.

Another debut performance was given by the **Melbourne Youth Strings**. Conductor, **Mary Johnston**, was bursting with pride at the progress her young string players had made & couldn’t wait to show them off. Assisted by manager, **Hamish Paterson** & tutors **Dorothy Yukilis**, **Peter Fabian** & **Laurien Kennedy**, the program of works by Purcell, Tchaikovsky, Mahler & Williams was a great hit with the audience.

After interval it was the turn of the **Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra**. Acting conductor, **Michael Harvey**, was extremely proud to be out in front of the orchestra & stand-in manager, **Elsa Brissenden**, also helped out in the percussion section. The players did not disappoint with works by Copland, Grainger, Mendelssohn & Saint-Saens leaving the audience shouting for more.

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

#### **Melbourne Youth Orchestra Concert**

The Sunday afternoon marked the first official **Melbourne Youth Orchestra** concert for 2009. Conducted by **Fabian Russell**, the orchestra performed the epic *Symphony No.7* of Dmitri Shostakovich. The work is Shostakovich’s longest, and calls for large forces across the entire orchestra. There were some 95 players on stage for the performance, including 8 horns, 6 trumpets, 6 trombones, and 2 harps!

The orchestra performed extremely well, and clearly demonstrated how much they had achieved over a short period of time.

The Shostakovich concert was a fantastic start to the year, and it was evident to all that there is much potential for the orchestra. The next concert [June 21<sup>st</sup>] consists of an all Australian program, featuring the works of Peter Sculthorpe, Richard Mills and Brett Dean as well as the extraordinary score - *The Warriors* - of Percy Grainger.

The proceeds from these two concerts, including audience donations on the days totalled **\$7,909** & MYM is happy to be able to forward a cheque for this amount to the bushfire appeal “**Rebuilding Communities through Music**”.

Jan Constable GENERAL MANAGER MYM