41st Wodonga Carols by Candlelight
18 December 2016
Willow Park, Wodonga

Performer Details

Major Sponsors:
## Wodonga Carols 2016

### Performer Details

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Pre-Carols Performers

**Murray Conservatorium Big Band**

The Murray Conservatorium Big Band (MCBB) has a big sound and has a great time making great music. They feature a line-up of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, bass and drums and are conducted by Tony Smith. MCBB draws on their talented students, Conservatorium staff, former students and local professionals for its membership.

Playing a diverse range of styles from traditional big band era swing, through to Latin, rock and funk, they perform regularly at the Conservatorium's major concerts as well as appearing in a number of local community events, most recently The Applause Festival. This will be their second performance at the Wodonga Carols.

This vibrant collective rehearses on Monday evenings at the Murray Conservatorium, Dean St, Albury. New members are always welcome. For further information, please call 0260414249 or email admin@murraycon.com.au

**Wodonga Primary Schools Choir**

The Wodonga Primary Schools choir has been a regular performer at Carols. The choir members from Year 1 to Year 6 include the 2015 Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod solo, duet and choral champions. Soloists are regular solo or duet performers at community events such as the Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod, citizenship ceremonies and at local senior citizens' homes.

The music has been co-ordinated by Diana Lewington and Graham Wright from Wodonga Primary School.

Main Carols Program

**Bruce Cook**

Bruce has been actively involved with community based organisations in Albury-Wodonga for many years. These include a wide range of bands and musical theatre. An accomplished musician on both brass and keyboard, Bruce first joined the band in 1982. This is Bruce's sixth time in the role of Musical Director for Wodonga’s Carols by Candlelight. Bruce believes music should be fun. "If you are having fun you are enjoying yourself. If you are enjoying yourself you will play well. If you play well people will want to cross the street to listen rather than to get away from the noise".

**Sandra Moon**

Sandra Moon is the breakfast announcer at 2AY, and also Assistant General Manager of the station.

She loves presenting Wodonga Carols by Candlelight, not only for the thousands of families who come to the event, but also live on radio 1494 2AY and live streaming - so people can listen at home, interstate or even overseas.

This year Sandra once again looks forward to showcasing amazing local talent and celebrating Christmas with you on the Border!
Lindsay Hanchett
This is the thirteenth carols event that Lindsay has co-ordinated. Lindsay initially learnt the trombone in secondary school and after a very long break from playing joined Wodonga Brass in 1998. In his younger years, he played with several bands in addition to the Navy Reserve Band at HMAS Lonsdale.

Wodonga Brass
Wodonga's first public Carols By Candlelight was initiated by Wodonga Brass in 1976. The band has been the main organiser, and musical backing, of the Wodonga carols each year since then. Conducted by Bruce Cook, the band has had a very active year with many public performances across the region. These include concerts, parades, services and festivals. The band rehearses every Wednesday night. New members are always welcome and a brass instrument will be supplied where possible at no additional charge.

Bandiana Primary School Choir
This is the fifth year the Bandiana School Choir have had the honour of being involved in the Wodonga Carols.

The choir is comprised of children whom are enrolled in private music tuition within the school. This year the choir is led by music teacher and performer, Vanessa Delaine.

They will provide additional vocal support for The First Noel, Joy to the World and Away in the Manger.

Sing Australia
Sing Australia Albury Wodonga is part of a National network of groups in towns and cities around Australia. All people who love singing are welcome, regardless of previous experience. If you have only ever sung in the shower and would like to stretch your talents singing a wide range of music, then Sing Australia can accommodate you. Directed by Pauline McLaughlin, the group will accompany several soloists during the evening.

St Augustine's and St Monica's Glee Club
St. Monica's and St. Augustine's Theatre groups have been performing at Wodonga Carols by Candlelight for five years. This year the group has once again performed at Melbourne Town Hall as part of the Boite Schools Chorus, where they performed songs from the Windrush project. St. Monica's have recently had their whole school production Disney's Junior 'Alice in Wonderland'. Many of the students singing tonight have had leading roles in the production. St. Augustine's students will soon begin preparing for their whole school production to present at The Albury Entertainment Centre in 2017
**New Life Chapel Singers**

A section of the New Life Chapel vocal team are thrilled to join with the various choirs this evening. The full vocal team consists of 20 singers who sing regularly at New Life Chapel at both midweek and Sunday church services.

They love music, they love to sing and they are honoured to be part of this year's Wodonga Carols By Candlelight.

**Robyn Broadbent**

Robyn Broadbent has been singing for 25 years. Robyn and her family have been Wodonga locals for the past 18yrs. Robyn has been involved in many community Christmas performances and has sung regularly at local business functions and is a regular vocalist at New Life Chapel Wodonga.

Her stunning voice will surely delight you as she opens the Wodonga Carols with the much loved carol O Come All Ye Faithful.

**Bella Tomasi**

Bella is nine years old and attends St Augustine’s Primary School. As well as singing Bella also loves playing guitar and spending time with her friends. This is Bella’s first time leading the singing at Wodonga’s Carols.

Bella will sing The First Noel.

**Louise Phegan**

Louise has a large performance background having studied a Bachelor of Arts in Acting for the Stage and Screen. Louise now works as a teachers’ aid while studying for her Primary Teaching degree.

Louise will sing Joy to the World.

**Tracy Whitehead**

Tracy is the Performing Arts teacher at St. Monica’s Primary School and St. Augustine’s Primary School Wodonga. This is Tracy's fifth performance at Wodonga Carols and is delighted to be invited back to sing at this wonderful community event again this year.

Tracey will perform Away in a Manger.

**Debby Warr**

This is Debby's first Carols By Candlelight. Debby moved to Wodonga four years ago from Queensland. Prior to that she lived in Wagga Wagga for many years. Debby has performed in the Col Porter musical "Anything Goes" directed by the Late Colin Anderson. Debby spends her time singing and entertaining with friends, the residents at various Aged Care Facilities in the Albury, Wodonga, Howlong and Beechworth areas.

Debby will perform O little Town of Bethlehem.
Prime Possum

Prime Possum is a larger than life, warm, cuddly character who regularly appears on Prime TV. He makes regular guest appearances and especially loves carols because he gets to meet Santa.

Philomena Dobson

Phil is a regular performer around the Border region as a solo artist known as "PJ"

She has been singing since a small child and has had roles in various local theatre productions and cabaret style shows. Whilst singing in local Club and Pub venues and private functions is a passion, it is a pleasure to do Wodonga Carols each year.

This is Phil’s sixth appearance at Wodonga Carols and will perform ‘Rocking Around the Christmas Tree’.

Bruce Lynch & Niki Straus

Bruce has performed mostly solo and musical theatre with lead roles in Le Mis and Jesus Christ superstar. He has appeared at venues from Albury to Sydney/ Melbourne. He also plays the 12 string guitar and composes.

Bruce is happy to be a part of this amazing night of song and music.

Niki loves to sing. Niki has been teaching singing at Xavier High School for the past 12 years and has appeared in various musicals and bands over the years. Niki is thrilled to be performing at this years Wodonga Carols ’and would love to wish you a very happy Christmas.

Bruce and Niki will be singing Deck the Halls and Silent Night.

Daniel Braines

Daniel has been playing brass instruments since 1991, primarily with the Salvation Army. Daniel has been involved with Albury Gang Show since 2003 on the production team, in the band and as Assistant Musical Director. Daniel joined Wodonga Brass Band in 2013. This is Daniel’s fourth Wodonga Carols, but the first time singing.

Daniel will perform It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.

Courtney Newnham

Courtney Newnham has a love of performing and has been singing since the age of 6. She has performed with many choirs and individual performances throughout the years, as well as shows such as "The Sound of Music", "Broadway Unplugged", "Creatures" and Carols by Candlelight. This year Courtney was the vocal assistant coach for Byte-Sized's production of "Peter Pan". Courtney is also a youth and worship leader and her local church City Central Church which she loves to do. This is Courtney's favourite time of the year and she is honoured to be able to perform for you.

Courtney will perform Angels We Have Heard on High.
Helena Sheppard & Tony Smith

Helena was born in Mtarfa, Malta, and grew up in Manchester, England, where she played in many brass bands, concert bands and orchestra pits for musicals. Helena plays piano, guitar and trumpet, and is skilled in a variety of brass instruments. She has played with Corowa Brass, and currently plays with Wodonga Brass, Murray Brass and the MC Big Band.

Tony Smith is a professional musician, music teacher, artist and entertainer. He grew up in the jazz and rock scenes around Wollongong and Sydney, and now calls Wodonga his home. Although a bass player by trade, Tony plays cornet in Wodonga Brass, and trumpet in several orchestras and ensembles around the region. Tony currently teaches music at the Murray Conservatorium and conducts the MC Big Band.

Helena and Tony will sing Six White Boomers.

Grace Draper

Grace made her debut with Wodonga Carols five years ago as part of the Bandiana Primary School Choir and then as a soloist in 2014. Grace is now 16 and enjoying year 10 at Trinity Anglican College. She performs with the Trinity Soul Band, Capella and vocal group. In addition to a lead role in the Trinity production of Hairspray she has also been a part of productions by Livid Theatre Group, Albury Wodonga Theatre Company and Byte-Sized Productions. In the 2016 Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod Grace was awarded the 2016 aggregate champion for her age group.

Grace is very excited to be a part of the Wodonga Carols by Candlelight and will perform Jingle Bell Rock.

Denise Thorman

Denise is a regular performer with Wodonga Carols & really enjoys this magical night
and will sing Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Caitlin Clarke, Savannah Clarke & Lochie Booth

This is Caitlin’s 11th Wodonga Carols by Candlelight. She has been teaching dancing for nearly 30 years and is the choreographer for Byte-Size Productions. Caitlin will be joined tonight with her daughter, Savannah and Lochie performing a Jive from Albury Wodonga Dance Centre.

Cait, Savannah and Santa will perform Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Paul Hardbottle

Santa’s appearance is assisted by Paul Hardbottle. Paul is an experienced local performer who has appeared in shows such as Godspell, Holy Grail, Jesus Christ Super Star, Pirates of Penzance and Pinkalicous to name but a few.

This is Paul’s first appearance at Wodonga Carols by Candlelight.
Shoshanna Griffin

Shoshanna is honoured once again to be participating in this year's Wodonga Carols. She would like to dedicate her performance to her children who will be overseas this Christmas and her supportive husband Shane.

Shoshanna will perform Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

Abigail Scholz

Abigail Scholz is 20 years old and has been singing since her early teens. Abigail graduated from Trinity Anglican College in 2014. Her love for music and musical theatre was obvious in her many school vocal ensembles and performances including the 2014 school production of Fame in which Abigail played the lead role.

Abigail is a regular vocalist at New Life Chapel and has performed at many local events since graduating from High School.

You will love her beautiful voice and sweet nature as she sings Mary's Boy Child.

Cassandra Pudney

This is Cassandra's fourth appearance at Wodonga Carols. Cassandra has been also involved with the local music theatre group Livid Productions for the past 4 years. This year was her first on the production side as choreographer for Annie. Other show credits include Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Suessical the Musical (Gertrude) and Grease (Jan). This is Cassandra's last Wodonga carols for a while as she is moving north with her family in January. She would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Cassandra will perform When a Child is Born and Little Drummer Boy.

Jodie Caroline

Having performed earlier this year as part of the Wodonga Brass A Night at the Proms concert, Jodie Caroline is thrilled to be performing with Wodonga Brass again at the Wodonga Carols by Candlelight. Jodie is currently studying a Diploma in Music – Voice as well as working full time, and squeezes in various amateur theatre roles (both on and off stage) where possible.

Jodie Caroline would like to wish you all joy for Christmas, and safe travels to those who will be making a trek to be with family and friends.

Jodie will perform Do You Hear What I Hear and Once in Royal David’s City.
Kimberley Forbes

Kimberley Forbes is a Wodonga girl through and through.

Born and raised here, Kimberley, now 28, has been singing since the age of 3. Her powerful voice has seen her perform to audiences of thousands at Hisense Arena Melbourne and in many various settings in Albury/Wodonga and region. Kimberley is a vocal teacher and the music / vocal director of New Life Chapel Wodonga.

Kimberley is thrilled to be singing her favourite carol of all time, *O Holy Night*.

Robert Boyd

Robert has sung in most of the large performance venues in Sydney including the Opera House, Sydney Town Hall, the Great Hall at Sydney University and St. Andrew’s Cathedral. He was a tenor soloist for the Sydney University Graduate Choir 1993 – 2012.

Last Christmas he was the Tenor soloist in the Murray Conservatorium’s performance of Benjamin Britten’s St Nicholas Oratorio. Robert is a regular member of St Matthew’s Church Choir and joins other local choirs as required. He has recorded with 2MBS-FM and also with the ABC, Seven Songs from a Journey, music by Nigel Nettheim to poems of Judith Wright, also the Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio was recorded on CD with the Australian National Orchestra.

Robert will be performing *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* and *The Holy City*.