



36th Wodonga Carols by Candlelight

18 December 2011
Willow Park, Wodonga

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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 James Ross. 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 Uiver 75th Anniversary Ball and The 2/23rd Battalion's 70th Anniversary Dinner. This will be their first 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

Catholic College Choir

Catholic College won seven out of their eight sections at the annual Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod this year and were the winners of the Trudy Bekessy Award for the Best Achievement in Choral. This is a great achievement and performances tonight will come from the Blokes Choir, the Chamber Choir and the Senior Vocal Ensembles. The choir is led by Fiona Dyball who will also be singing the opening carols number.

Wodonga Primary Schools Choir

The Wodonga Primary Schools choir has been a regular performer at Carols. The choir boasts members from beginners in grade one to grade six.

Soloists are regular solo or duet performers at community events such as the Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod, St John's Choral Festival, 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 first time in the role of Musical Director for Wodonga's Carols by Candlelight. In addition to a long term involvement in Wodonga's Carols, Bruce has been the Musical Director of the local theatre group, Livid Productions, for the past four years. 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 has also presents ACE Radio's weekday rural program "Country Today" (broadcast across Western Victoria).

Before entering the radio industry Sandra worked with a theatre company for children where she did her fair share of singing on stage - often badly!

This year she's looking forward to leaving the singing to the talented performers, while continuing 2AY's Christmas tradition of broadcasting the Wodonga Carols by Candlelight live on-air!

Lindsay Hanchett

Lindsay was appointed president of Wodonga Brass in 2003. This is the eighth carols event he 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.

Playing members: Rick Allen, Bruce Cook, Lisa Bruning, Solomon Boyd, Duncan Clement, Jim Costelloe, Cherie Cruden, Vince Davide, Ross Draper, Lindsay Hanchett, Jeremy Kerr, Don McGee, Phillip Missen, Donna Missen, Graeme Morris, Gregory Morris, Barbara Murdoch, Cam Murdoch, Athalie O'Sullivan, Jeremy O'Sullivan, Michael O'Sullivan, Nathan O'Sullivan, Michael Parker, Kathleen Parry, Christine Pearson, Scott Rowlings, Graeme Stewart, Stephen Stewart, Jason Stock, Fenella Sutherland, Christopher Venning, Deanne Venning, Michael Williams.

Sing Australia Choir

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.

Livid Singers

The Livid Singers are a combination of local singers that regularly perform with Livid Theatre Company. They comprise Lauren Schmitter, Natalie Schrickker, Jayden Schrickker, Maidie Dawson, Denise Sweet, Tracey Whitehead, Jodie Schutte, Philomena Dobson, Shoshanna Griffin, Amber Beck, Colm Cox, Fenn Dawson, Corey Cooper, Aaron Bykerk. Along with the Sing Australia Choir they will support many of the Carols performers.

Alpine Dance Studio

Alpine Dance Studio is an Albury based school owned by Carolen Kardol. Alpine offers a variety of Jazz, Modern Expressive, Tap, Hip Hop and Theatrical for boys and girls of all ages from tiny tots to adults. Alpine dancers performing for the Carols are the Senior advanced troupe and intermediate group. For further information contact 0412 628 301.

Dancers from this school will be appearing during several carols throughout the program.

Fiona Dyball

Fiona Dyball is Director of Music and Performing Arts Leader at Catholic College Wodonga. Fiona has a Bachelor of Music in classical voice but loves singing and facilitating all styles of music. Fiona also has post-graduate qualifications in Music Therapy and Education from Melbourne University. She is currently completing her Masters in Music at Melbourne University and is passionate about music education in schools and the health and wellbeing benefits of making music in all communities. She lives in the beautiful and very artistic community of Yackandandah.

Fiona will open the program with *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Natasha Fraser

Natasha is 14 years old and has had a passion for performing since she was 4 years old and first joined the Wodonga Calisthenics Academy. This gave her a passion for singing and performing. Natasha started singing lessons with Robyn Tassie in 2009 and competed in this year's Albury/Wodonga Eisteddfod in 2 sections - Jazz/Pop solo (14 yrs) 1st place and Gospel solo (14 yrs) 2nd place. A Year 9 student at Catholic College Wodonga she loves Calisthenics, Dancing, singing, reading and spending time with family and friends.

Natasha will sing *Joy to the World*

Shanti Artley

Shanti is 10 years old and is in Year 4 at Wodonga Primary. Shanti has been part of the school choir since Year 1. This year Shanti was successful in both vocal and dance sections at the Albury-Wodonga Eisteddfod. Shanti's interests beside music include gymnastics.

Shanti will sing *Away in A Manger*.

Natalie Schrickker

Natalie has been involved in musical theatre for many years both in Sydney and locally. Local productions include Livid Productions' *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Spamalot* and as a soloist in their recent Christmas Cabaret. With Albury Wodonga Theatre Co, Natalie performed in *You Can't Stop the Beat* and as Gigi in their recent production, *Miss Saigon*. This is Natalie's first appearance at the Wodonga Carols.

Natalie will sing *When a Child is Born*

Jessica Ffrost

Jessica Ffrost is in year 11 at the Wodonga Senior Secondary College, where she is a member of the swing band, concert band and choir and has just finished her Year 12 VCE Solo music performance on Clarinet.

Jess has also been playing in the Albury City Band for 4 years and competed in various solo, group and duo sections through Woodwind and Vocal in the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod this year and received quite a number pleasing results. A regular Wodonga Carols performer this will be Jess's last year singing at the Wodonga Carols By Candlelight.

Jessica will sing '*Rocking around the Christmas Tree*'

Yasmin Powell

Yasmin is 19yrs old and begun studying a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice at the WA Academy of Performing Arts this year. In Perth, she now sings with the prestigious Eneksis Chamber Choir, going on a chorale tour in Dunsborough this year. She was awarded a Vocal Scholarship to study at the Murray Conservatorium last year. Yasmin has sung with the Gondwana National Choirs including a performance at the Sydney Opera House. In the 2010 Albury Wodonga-Eisteddfod in the 17-18 age group she was Vocal Champion, Best Musician and Vocalist and Most Versatile Performer. In 2010 she played a lead role in the musical "*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*".

Yasmin will sing *Once In Royal David City* and *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Prime Possum

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

Aaron Bykerk

Aaron Bykerk 22 has been performing for over 10 years. Aaron has performed in many musicals and events across the border, including *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Robin Hood the Comedy*, *Grease*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. This year he has performed in *Spamalot* and *Miss Saigon* and most recently in the *Livid Christmas* show. Aaron will be touring Australia next year with the *Cher Tribute Show*.

Aaron will be singing *Jingle Bell Rock*

Anne Hayward

Anne has enjoyed singing in musical theatre and bands for more years than she cares to admit and recently performed in AWTCO's spectacular *'You Can't Stop The Beat'*. Some of her most memorable gigs have been 12 months full time residencies in South Korea and Japan. Anne is now based in Albury and performs solo on a regular basis at clubs and private functions. This is Anne's third appearance at Wodonga Carols and she will be performing *'Deck The Halls'* and *'Its Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas'*

Graham Ashton

Graham studied singing in South Australia, performing in the chorus of the SA Opera Company. He has been involved with many local theatre productions since he moved to the region where he works as a printer at the Border Mail.

Graham will sing *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *The Holy City*.

Sarah Winnel

Year 8 Scots School student Sarah performs with all her school choirs and instrumental ensembles. She is a member of the National Children Choir *Gondwana Voices* where she has toured to America, Canada, Tasmania, New Zealand and next year to China. She is Head Chorister at St Matthew's church choir, and sings with the Murray Conservatorium Choir and plays with the Albury City Band. She has Grade 8 AMEB voice and is preparing for Grade 8 clarinet and Grade 5 musicianship.

Sarah will sing *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*

Tiarna Church, Storm Cruden and Lowri Hammans

This trio are all enthusiastic musicians and choristers at Wodonga Primary. All performed successfully at Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod and in 2010 all were in the State Schools Spectacular in Melbourne in September. Tiarna has violin and dance tuition, Storm has flute tuition in the State Schools' Transition Program while Lowri participates in gymnastics.

The girls will sing *I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Clause*

Makinlay Andrews

Makinlay attends Catholic College Wodonga and is currently in Year 8. During this year she has participated in voice and instrument lessons. This will be Mackinlay's fourth appearance at Carols.

Makinlay will perform '*Santa Clause is Coming to Town*' .

David Collishaw

David is a well-known Border musician/entertainer and regularly performs throughout the region's clubs and pubs as well as entertaining at private functions. A long-time supporter of carols, David's main role has been to support Santa in recent years. This year will be David's 16th appearance at Wodonga carols.

Caitlin Clarke

Caitlin has been teaching dancing in the local area for over 20 years. She has been performing since a child, including eisteddfods, choirs and with the Albury Music Theatre Group. This is her 7th year with the Wodonga Carols.

Cait will sing *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*. This carol also involves the Alpine Dance School dancers.

Jess Porter

Jess is 18 and just completed Year 12 at Wodonga Senior Secondary College. This is her 6st appearance at Wodonga Carols. Jess regularly sings the National Anthem at both the Men's and woman's Bandits Basketball home games and has sung also at a few weddings

Jessica will sing '*The First Noel*'.

Stephen Armati

This is Stephen's first appearance at Wodonga Carols by Candlelight. Stephen is a regular on stage in the North East, having recently performed the lead role of "Chris" in Albury Wodonga Theatre Co(AWTCO) production of *Miss Saigon*. This year, Stephen has also performed the role of Sir Galahad/Denis in Livid's production of *Spamalot*, and was a featured performer in AWTCO's *You Can't Stop the Beat*. Stephen's other credits include *Strange Bedfellows - A New Musical (2010)*, "Pirate King" in AWTCO's *Pirates of Penzance (2010)*, "The Beast" in AWTCO's *Beauty & The Beast (2009)* and "Johnny Casino" in AWTCO's *Grease (2008)*. Stephen has also performed at Albury Carols by Candlelight, the Man from Snowy River Festival and various other corporate events across the area. He is proud to be part of Wodonga Carols by Candlelight, in the town which he now calls home.

Stephen will sing '*O Holy Night*'

Lauren Schmutter

Lauren is the owner of local hairdressing salon Zabuui Hairdesigners and has been performing in and around the Albury Wodonga area for many years with local bands, and more recently with local theatre. Some of her roles have included Sister Amnesia in Livid Production's *Nunsense*, Mary Magdelene in Livid's *Jesus Christ Super Star*, and earlier this year played the lady of the lake in Livid's *Spamalot*. Lauren also performed this year in Albury Wodonga Theatre Company's *You Can't Stop the Beat*. Lauren is the vocal director for Livid Theatre Company and has just started the Livid Gospel Choir.

Lauren will sing '*Ding Dong Merrily on High*'

Denise Thorman

What a fun filled year Denise has had in 2011. In addition to her regular club gigs, weddings & private functions, Denise has also performed on a P & O cruise ship. Thankfully the seas were calm. It was a fantastic experience and one that Denise would not hesitate doing again.

This will be Denise's sixth year performing at Wodonga Carols.

Denise will sing '*Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*'