



Media release

7 September 2018

Choir event gives \$3256 helping hand to mobile laundry service

Cool Harmonies choir put a little love in the community's heart on Thursday morning (6 September) raising \$3256 to give a helping hand to Orange Sky Australia which provides a free mobile laundry service for homeless people on the Sunshine Coast.

The donation included \$250 from Marcoola Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, plus two baskets full of toiletries which will be distributed to the 65-70 people using the laundry service each week.

More than 100 people enjoyed the annual fundraising event, held at the Uniting Church hall in Coolum Beach, which featured heart-warming harmonies and a delicious morning tea.

"It's such a joy to bring the community together at these events as we not only get to share our varied and uplifting songs with everyone but have the opportunity to raise funds for local not for profit organisations," choir director Yvonne Corstorphin said.

The event included a presentation by Vehicle Manager Rob Scoates and his wife Delise from Orange Sky, which has been operating on the Sunshine Coast for the past three years.

"I want you to imagine you are cold, hungry, lonely and don't know where you will lay your head tonight to sleep," Mr Scoates asked the audience during his presentation.

"And with what little cash you have in your pocket, will you spend it on food or go to a laundromat to wash your clothes each week?"

Mr Scoates said there were about 1600 people who were homeless on any given night on the Sunshine Coast, includes those sleeping in cars or couch surfing with friends, with about 42 percent of them under 25 years of age.

Last month, Orange Sky delivered 250 washes on the Sunshine Coast, with 60 volunteers and approx. 360 hours of non-judgemental conversation.

"With our homeless friends, it's knowing that someone cares about them, and what we do at Orange Sky is all about hope," he said.

Mr Scoates told the audience the free mobile laundry service, which relied on donations and sponsors to keep the vehicle on the road, cost between \$200 and \$300 per week to cover the laundry, wear and tear, maintenance and insurance.

Orange Sky provides a free laundry service for people who are homeless at the following locations:

- **Mondays:** 8am-11am at The Shack Community Centre, 19 Price St, Nambour; 3pm-6pm at The Daily Bread Kitchen, St Luke's Lutheran Church, 10 Sydney Street, Nambour
- **Tuesdays:** 9am-11am at Noosa Rotary, 14 Earl Street, Tewantin; 4pm-7pm Maroochydore Neighbourhood Centre, 2 Fifth Ave, Maroochydore
- **Wednesdays:** 12pm-2pm at Uniting Church, 6 Grasstree Court, Sunrise Beach; 3pm-6pm The Daily Bread Kitchen, St Luke's Lutheran Church, 10 Sydney St, Nambour
- **Thursdays:** 4pm-7pm at Maroochydore Neighbourhood Centre

- **Fridays:** 9am-12pm at Caloundra Neighbourhood Centre, Queen St, Caloundra
- **Fridays** (starting from mid-September): 5pm-7.30pm Stella Maris Catholic Church, Baden Powell St Maroochydore.

- ENDS -

Photo (from left): Delise Scoates, Chris de Waard, Marcoola Community Bank Branch Manager Kerryn Vincart, Rachel Darken, Kath Moran and Rob Scoates at the Cool Harmonies morning tea fundraiser on Thursday. Photo: Hari Kotrotsios

For more information about Orange Sky Australia contact Rob Scoates on ph: 0478608509

For information about Cool Harmonies choir contact Yvonne Corstorphin on ph: 0403 013 555

About Orange Sky Australia

Orange Sky provides a platform for every day Australians to connect through a regular laundry and shower service. The focus is on creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or who feel disconnected from the community. Our volunteers are not social workers or experts on homelessness - they are empathetic listeners and great conversationalists.

Across Australia Orange Sky has grown from:

- 1 to 26 vans
- 6 locations in Brisbane to 202 locations around Australia
- 20 volunteers to more than 1800
- 8.2 tonnes of washing every week
- 4800 showers to date

For more information visit <https://orangesky.org.au>

About Cool Harmonies

Cool Harmonies have been singing up a storm for 11 years now, and grown into a community choir with more than 70 members. We have a diverse repertoire that includes rhythms from Africa to the Middle East, and sing in a range of styles from gospel to swing. Our members are equally passionate about spreading harmony throughout the community; with a generosity of spirit in everything we do, we enjoy sharing our gift of song with others, as well as our friendship, support, care, kindness and time. Many of our fundraising activities are made possible through sponsorship donations from Marcoola Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank. www.coolharmonies.com

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