



Media release

28 May 2015

Seven Coast singers raised their voices with 1000-strong massed choir

Seven local singers recently joined the African Children's Choir and Australian independent singer Kate Miller-Heidke on stage as part of a 1000-strong massed choir concert in Wollongong, NSW.

Believed to be the largest ever massed choir concert in Australia, the Wollongong concert attracted 26 school and community choirs, plus individual singers from across the country.

Cool Harmonies choir director Yvonne Corstorphin was also one of the musical directors for the massed choir, together with Dr Jonathon Welch AM (Choir of Hard Knocks), Lyn Williams OAM (Sydney Children's Choir), Rachel Hore OAM from Canberra and Janet Swain from Mullumbimby, NSW.

Yvonne sang in the massed choir performances with Cool Harmonies members Suzie Monro, Libby Packer, Tina Stubbs, Sharron Bennett, Hari Kotrotsios, and Sheila Corcoran from Global Harmonies community choir.

"The Wollongong concert was about bringing together different cultures through music, while helping to raise funds for vulnerable children in Africa's slums to provide them with an education they would never otherwise have had," Yvonne said.

The massed choir concert was part of the African Children's Choir three-month tour of Australia's east coast, which includes a visit to the Sunshine Coast in June.

"When these kids perform, it's not just a concert. They share their stories of hope and joy on stage. There are no stories of misery or heartache. It's all about enthusiasm, opportunity as well as outstanding dancing, drumming and singing," Yvonne said.

"People always walk away feeling uplifted and wanting to embrace whatever is positive in their lives, just the way these kids do."

The African Children's Choir visit in June is part of a three-month tour of eastern Australia which started in April and includes Geelong, Sunbury, Melbourne, Wodonga, Canberra, Wollongong, Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Huskisson, Laurieton, Port Macquarie, Taree, Bellingen, Mullumbimby, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

One hundred percent of all money raised through the tour will go towards the Choir's latest project: a new choir training academy in Uganda.

The 18 Ugandan children will present three public events on the Sunshine Coast:

- A world class concert at Lake Kawana Community Centre at 7pm on **Saturday 20 June**, featuring the Coast's highly acclaimed dynamic looping artist Darren Percival as support act.
- A fun-filled interactive singing, drumming and dancing workshop at 2pm on **Sunday 21 June** at Coolum State School.
- A Zumba fundraiser with the African Children's Choir from 6pm-7pm on Tuesday 23 June at Coolum Civic Centre. Tickets available at the door: \$10 adults, \$8 children.
- For concert and workshop tickets visit www.kwaya.org

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Photo caption:

#01 Coast singers: Sunshine Coast singers (from left) Libby Packer, Sheila Corcoran, Tina Stubbs, Hari Kotrotsios, Suzie Monro and Yvonne Corstorphin were part of the 1000-strong massed choir performing with the African Children's Choir in Wollongong, NSW, on 17 May.