



Voices of
Birralelee

VOICES OF BIRRALEE

Creating vibrant, enriching musical experiences that develop confident, passionate individuals who inspire others!

Paul Holley's speech from Birralelee Celebrates 2011 Concert!

Voices of Birralelee is celebrating 16 years as a vibrant youth choral organization based in Brisbane. Over these 16 years we have been able to take our music to various parts of the world and share our love of singing with many people.

VoB provides a safe environment for children and young people who love to express themselves through music. VoB provides a supportive environment which facilitates and enhances the social, academic, physical and emotional development of its members.

VoB provides a sense of belonging to over 350 children and young people. A recent survey of members identified over 200 Brisbane communities/schools/suburbs are represented and that the unique sense of belonging enjoyed by our membership is largely due to the diversity of their backgrounds. The families represented recognise that involvement is more than merely teaching music, but that there is a strong sense of purpose and belonging.

VoB share and contribute to the celebration of Brisbane's diverse communities at events and festivals past and present, such as the **Brisbane Writer's Festival, Citizenship Ceremonies, Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival, Multi-faith ceremonies, ANZAC Day ceremony's, Australia Day Ceremonies, Asia Pacific Cities Summit.**

We participate to lift spirits, heal and encourage through our music! For example: **2011 Gala Concert for the Premier's disaster relief fund, National Bush Fire Day of Mourning, Organ Donor Thanksgiving Services.**

Brisbane became the centre for an extraordinary men's festival when we hosted the inaugural **Pemulwuy National Male Voices Festival** in 2008. In 2011, the 3 day festival culminated in a sold out concert at QPAC and attracted 500 men and boys from every Australian State.

Charity Support

Participation at charity events often brings associated expenses to our organisation however such activities develop the personal integrity of our members and fosters generosity of spirit and an appreciation for the value of humanitarian cause within the wider community.

Charities which have been supported include:

- ✦ Royal Children's Hospital Fund
- ✦ The Smith Family
- ✦ Fred Hollows Foundation
- ✦ Endeavour Foundation
- ✦ Starlight Children's Foundation
- ✦ The Abused Child Trust
- ✦ The Wesley Hospital
- ✦ Queenslanders Donate
- ✦ The Wesley Mission
- ✦ Courier Mail Children's Fund
- ✦ World Vision
- ✦ Careflight
- ✦ National Heart Foundation of Australia
- ✦ Spiritus (formerly Anglicare)
- ✦ Bravehearts
- ✦ East Timor Relief

The quintessential characteristic of VoB music is passion! The music making process intrinsically promotes joy and vitality. VoB thrives on the selection and performance of diverse and exciting live music! Music from all parts of the world, in different languages and styles is a feature of our program. Children and young people are encouraged to explore new music, sing in different languages and enjoy the diversity of music and sounds found in different cultures. Emerging artists are nurtured and encouraged alongside professional artists. Twelve CD's have been produced, the most recent 'Towards Infinity' released by ABC Classics this year.

Creating New Music & Becoming a Donor!

VoB welcomes opportunities to celebrate stories in song and to engage and collaborate with artists, composers and writers. Over twenty pieces of new music have been commissioned in the past five years, all of which represent a vast range of themes.

VoB is a not-for profit arts organisation and to be able to continue to create such opportunities, we have recently acquired status as a Deductible Gift Recipient. This enables members of the community to support the Birralelee programme through making tax deductible donations to the organisation. These donations will assist us in being able to commission new music, offer scholarships, or fund special projects and tours. Our target for 2012 is \$20,000.

Donations can be made via the GiveNow website www.givenow.com.au/voicesofbirralelee and we encourage you to consider how you can assist us either by making a donation yourself or passing the information on to friends or relatives who value what we do for your young people!

For more information, please contact:

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