



Local students counting on music

Students from Gundagai South Public and Gundagai Public School have registered to be a part of the music phenomenon Music: Count Us In, with organisers encouraging other local schools to also get involved.

In its 10th year, Music: Count Us In is Australia's biggest schools initiative, where students across the country sing the same song, on the same day, at the same time. Designed to encourage young people to become passionate about music and music education, last year it saw over half a million students from over 2,100 schools join the program.

Working directly with schools

and teachers, Music: Count Us In exists to assist teachers in providing quality music education and to address the gap in specialist music education provision in many Australian schools.

The program is both a participation program and an advocacy program, raising the profile of music education on

the national stage, and providing hundreds of thousands of students with practical music learning.

Spurred on by a 2007 National School Music Review which pointed to glaring inadequacies in music education in schools, the report included a recommendation to raise the

status of music in schools.

Music: Count Us In was the response.

"It's purpose is to energise and engage teachers, principals, school communities, and families, and to provide quality music participation opportunities, available to all," said a spokesperson for the event.

Music: Count Us In 2016 has now launched with a wonderfully positive response from teachers and students across the country. At its heart is the 2016 Program Song, 'Let It Play', written by students from across Australia.

All schools are invited to participate and registration is free via www.musicaustralia.org.au



Helping students become passionate about music, Aussie musicians Jay Laga'aia and John Foreman are supporting the initiative Music: Count Us In.