



## Performance celebrates music education in schools



Shorncliffe State School senior choir and string ensemble led the school during a nationwide event celebrating music education in schools. Senior choir members Molly Quant, Caitlin Bennett and Saskia Cross with the senior choir and string ensemble. Story, page 13. PHOTO: JACQUELINE HENRY

# One song, many young voices

Jacqueline Henry

## Northside students join national celebration of music education

TWELVE northside schools joined many others across Australia to simultaneously sing *Let it Play* at 11.30am on Thursday, November 3 for Music Count Us In (MCUI).

MCUI is a nationwide event, in its 10th year, celebrating music education in schools to get children singing.

This year participating northside schools included Geebung Special School, Shorncliffe, Virginia, Geebung, Nashville, Sandgate, Banyo, Zillmere and Brighton State Schools, St Flannans and Sacred Heart Primary Schools, and Earnshaw State College.

Shorncliffe State School music teacher Kim Podlich said their senior choir and string ensemble led the school for this year's MCUI.

"The entire school joined in singing and the actions performing *Let it Play*," Mrs Podlich said.

"Our super keen, clever and wonderful musicians here at Shorncliffe

performed while all the students sang the same song at the same time on the same day with thousands of other students across Australia."

Virginia State School music teacher Kathryn

McLennan said every student at Virginia State School and Stafford State School learnt the MCUI song

and the Auslan signs in small class groups for many months.

"It was not until the official day that we all met up (more than 700 students) to sing and sign the song together," Mrs McLennan said.

"It was the most delightful feeling to stand in front of hundreds of children who

were joyfully singing, smiling and happily working together. Our students from Virginia State School were

delighted to make new friends with students from Stafford State School through music.

"We can't believe the joy everyone gets out of singing just one song all together.

"Music is a very important

part of school life at Virginia State School and we love to share it with as many others as we can.

"It is a whole school activity that brings our community together with many positive effects.

"Music Count Us In is just one of those feel good moments in time that you never forget."



## BACKGROUND

★ The program song *Let it Play* is at the heart of MCUI and was written by students, for students.

★ Four students from around Australia were selected to work with program ambassador John Foreman OAM and program mentor Jay Laga'aia.

★ The student songwriters were Breanna Truscott, 14 from Queensland, Stella Kelly, 16 and Bonnie Staude, 14 from Western Australia and Tom Meadows, 11 from Victoria.



Virginia State School students Elisabeth Kaptain, Chloe Sarra, Kirralee Pringle, Kathryn McLennan, Elena Kearns, Lily Podlich and Jada Chelan ready to perform the song *Let it Play* during Music Count Us In.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED