

Goulburn Valley lifts its voice for sacred festival

800 join in songs of praise

By Jenny Kennedy

FOLLOWING on from the success of the inaugural Festival of the Sacred held in Bendigo last term it was the students from the Goulburn Valley's time to shine.

The combined voices of more than 800 Grade 5 and 6 students from Catholic schools in the Goulburn Valley Deanery filled the Mercy Centennial Stadium at Notre Dame College, Shepparton, with song on Tuesday, September 15.

The festival, which is part of the Diocesan Arts strategy, delighted audiences with an afternoon of music and song.

The spectacular display of choral performances intertwined with a Liturgy of the Word, led by Bishop Joe Grech and Monsignor Peter Jeffrey.

Expert tuition has been provided to students by teachers from A3-Australian Arts Alive, a branch of the Australian School of the Performing Arts.

Workshops for the individual schools from Shepparton, Mooroopna, Nathalia, Numurkah, Tongala, Kyabram, Tatura, Rushworth and Nagambie took place during term three.

Ms Brown said that Sandhurst was delighted to be able to engage expert teachers from the Australian School of the Performing Arts, who have been able to deliver a first class program to students.

"Having our teachers rub shoulders with the A3 specialists both adds a richness to teachers' professional lives and deepens the creative experiences for our students," she said.

Western Australian Bass Baritone, Mr Christopher Waddell, is the



Friend of the Festival of the Sacred. Mr Waddell travelled from Western Australia to be with the Western Deanery and Goulburn Valley schools for the past two festivals.

Christopher brings a wealth of experience in education as a teacher and leader as well as a lifetime of performance as a singer.

Mr Waddell acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Festivals.

As part of a planned Arts program, Catholic Education Sandhurst has placed a great importance on the future of The Arts in the diocese, committing to a strategy that will see further significant partnerships in the future.

The ongoing commitment to the Arts will provide wonderful opportunities for the students of Sandhurst.



Sing: Students lift their voices during the Festival of the Sacred in Shepparton (top).

Helping: MC Christopher Waddell (above)

Praise: A student carries the gospel to Monsignor Peter Jeffrey during the Liturgy of the Word (right).

Photos by: Jenny Kennedy

