

Finalists announced!

24 national finalists have been announced in the 2009 Music in Communities Awards which are themed around wellbeing, to find local music groups and programs whose benefits extend way beyond the music.

The shortlisted finalists were selected from entrants across Australia and are now one step closer to a share of the \$20,000 prize pool.

This year's finalists include:

- A rural community in South Australia which has uses a local shearing shed as a some-time Music Hall, creating a social and musical hub for farming families and neighbours.
- An outer Sydney suburban town band, now run by the grandson of the original bandmaster, which creates opportunities for very young players and much older musicians to play together across generations.
- A primary school choir in regional Victoria which has joined forces with a local seniors choir. Together they rehearse once a week and do road trips together, forming strong bonds between young and old which transcend music.
- An inner city women's choir in Melbourne using music and singing as vehicles for social justice and reconciliation.
- An innovative program for people with disabilities which puts a new twist on the concept of an 'orchestra'.

The finalists are:

Ambient Orchestras

Brunswick Women's Choir

Campbelltown All Ages Music Program

Campbelltown Camden District Band

Chooks on a Hot Tin Roof

GREATS - Youth Services - Maningrida Youth Cultural Festival

Hit the Right Note

Ku ring gai Philharmonic Orchestra

Lane Cove Choristers

Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club

Multicultural Arts Victoria - Visible Project

Music For Everyone

Narara Valley High School School and Community Music Program
Noarlunga Downs P-7 Drumming Group
Pearson's Shed
Straight Off da Street Inc
Tangentyere Council Inc - Drum Atweme Project
The Jam, The Mix, The Gig Inc.
The Mini Notes - Port Fairy Consolidated School
Tottenham Community Band
Unplugged Cafe
Violet Town Community House
Willunga Academy of Rock
Women In Harmony

The 2009 National winners will be announced in December.

Despite pockets of activity, on the whole Australia has proportionally fewer active music makers compared with other Western nations such as the US and the UK. Household surveys show there are an estimated 5 million 'lapsed' musicians – people who once learned, but no longer play.