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# Media Release:

## Gulgong Public School students get inspired by music

Music class has struck a chord with Gulgong Public School students with the launch of a new music program, thanks to the Learning for Good (LFG) platform.

Following a kind donation from a retired strings teacher, the Gulgong Public School is now the proud owner of 14 reconditioned violins that have travelled from Jindabyne to the Gulgong classroom. The school will grow its music program and start teaching violin with support from LFG and The Sydney Youth Orchestras 'Orchestral Beginners Program'.

LFG is an education technology charity that offers schools access to a range of high-quality arts and cultural content via the Learning for Good platform. Yancoal Australia is proud to be a Foundation Partner of LFG.

As a result of the partnership, LFG has been rolled out to 71 schools that are near Yancoal sites across Mudgee, Gulgong, Lower Hunter, and the Manning Valley.

To support this amazing musical program, on Saturday 28 June, students from Gulgong Public School and around 130 local residents experienced an interactive and enriching orchestral concert, some attendees were able to pick up a violin, drum, even a tuba for the first time and experience playing it.

This one-off exclusive musical experience from the Sydney Youth Orchestras (SYO) at The Prince of Wales Opera House had the orchestra perform beautiful music from classical repertoire, aiming to empower the students to be creative and begin their own musical journey.

The SYO is about to embark on its Big Sky Tour where it will travel across the state performing and collaborating with regional communities and artists. The tour aims to celebrate the unique perspectives of Australian and First Nations voices through orchestral music. The first stop on that incredible tour was pleasingly Gulgong Public School.

Chris North, Founder of Learning For Good, was thrilled with the success of the day.

"We are delighted to be launching our music program to Gulgong Public School students with this free community concert that was inspiring.

"We know that if schools are on LFG, then more classrooms have access to professional, sequential music education resources like the SYO.

“Furthermore, research shows that music can increase creativity, encourage academic improvement, and enhance your memory, concentration and overall emotional well-being.

“The violins were kindly donated to us from a music school in Jindabyne. It took nearly a week to drive, fly, tune and service them and now they are in their new home at Gulgong Public School, to help inspire budding musicians to learn the violin via the SYO beginners’ digital educational program.

“The generosity and support of people to get these instruments here is overwhelming.

“LFG is thrilled to have Yancoal Australia as our Foundation Partner. This helps continue our hard work in supporting regional communities in desperate need of access to high-quality learning resources in music, drama, art and literature.

“We look forward to continuing to rollout our program to schools across the region,” said Chris.

Gulgong Public School is a medium-sized rural school which endeavours to meet the individual needs of students in a safe, supportive and well-organised educational environment. Teachers work collaboratively to maximise quality teaching and learning, and the school is a member of the Mudgee network of schools.

Miriam Malik from Gulgong Public School, “We are so delighted our students were able to enjoy this once in a lifetime experience and can now start learning to play the violin. As a school, we are dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities for our students, so this was a perfect partnership for us. Thank you to Learning For Good and Yancoal Australia for facilitating this amazing event for our students.”

Yancoal Moolarben Coal General Manager, Brian Wesley was happy to play a part in bringing this musical initiative to Gulgong Public School.

“We are a proud and active member of the community. Many of our employees have children that attend the local primary and high schools, and we want to help ensure they are receiving the best education they can.

“Over time, we are looking forward to making a positive impact via our partnership with Learning for Good, contributing to long term community and educational benefits,” said Brian.

For more information about Learning For Good, please visit: <https://www.learningforgood.com.au/schools>

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