

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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North-West singers can hit a high note with the Southern Gospel Choir

North-West residents will soon have the chance to have their voices heard as part of the University of Tasmania's internationally acclaimed Southern Gospel Choir.

The new North-West chapter of the Southern Gospel Choir will be offered this year in Burnie as an accredited unit towards a Bachelor of Musical Arts.

Participation in the choir and the associated unit are offered to anyone in the community with an interest in singing who would like to develop choral and performance skills.

Director of the Southern Gospel Choir and Band, Associate Professor Andrew Legg, formed the group in 2000, soon after joining the staff of the contemporary music department at the University of Tasmania's Conservatorium of Music.

The Southern Gospel Choir has developed into a musical institution renowned across Australia and internationally for its sound and vibrant energy.

Associate Professor Legg said the choir has received international recognition, most recently through a tour on the US gospel circuit.

"The African American community opened their hearts to us in the most profound way. Not only were we accepted as musical force, but more importantly we were welcomed into their family. We will all never be the same again," Associate Professor Legg said.

"Choir members come from all walks of life; from professional musicians and singers, University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music students and members of the Tasmanian community who simply love the energy and joy of gospel music."

The North-West chapter of the Southern Gospel Choir will be launched at a musical information session on Saturday February 28 at noon at the Makers Workshop.

The session is open to anyone in the community and will include performances by Associate Professor Legg and vocal virtuoso Maria Lurighi along with the Burnie High School choir, conducted by Bronwyn Darvell.

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