The outstanding performances of the Pt Pirie District Combined Primary Schools Choir were enjoyed by approximately 800 people on August 28th & 29th at the Keith Michell Theatre. The Choir included 180 students from 8 schools: Airdale, Crystal Brook, Mid North Christian College, Napperby, Pt Pirie West, St Mark’s College, Solomontown and Risdon Park. Along with the choir the evening included performances by instrumental students from primary schools and John Pirie Secondary School. Some of these students were also choir members, so they had a very busy night. In the foyer while waiting to enter the theatre patrons were also treated to John Pirie students busking.

The evening was opened by Margy Arnold from Meg’s Bookshop. Brett Swensson, choir teacher from St Mark’s, accompanied the song ‘Moon Song’ on his guitar and was joined by choir teachers Dave Manuel on Guitar from Solomontown, music teacher Rod Ladgrove on bass guitar from John Pirie and Tom Rhode student from John Pirie on drums for the last song of the night ‘When We Stand Together’ - a song originally performed by the group Nickelback. Chris Hodgen was the brilliant conductor for the night from Murray Bridge. Risdon Park’s choir teacher Amy Grant also conducted the song ‘The Eye of the Needle’ while Chris Hodgen played the piano.
Risdon Park Primary School had 50 students in the choir including 5 of the 13 soloists, Allyson Diggens, Leah Funke, Kaylee Gonzalex, Jordan Beveridge and Tarkin Kennedy, who attended practices after school and performed their parts extremely well. Also Risdon had 2 peacocks, Olivia Maywald and Mackenzie Atkins, who ‘strutted’ and ‘pranced’ across the stage during the song ‘The Prancing Peacock’. Their costumes were magnificent, thanks to Olivia’s mum Mel Maywald. Many thanks go to teachers Trena Kretschmer, Aileen Wohling and principal Nicole Cawley who supported students Anton Caputo, Vasilia Ketses, Lucy Dando and Maddison Boothby who sold programs and merchandise in the foyer prior to the performances.

Students have enjoyed learning the songs, the choreography, experienced the back stage preparations, enjoyed the spotlight performing and interviews with the media. They have formed new friendships with students from other schools, and improved their singing skills. Although many will not pursue a career in singing, the experience may open their minds to consider careers in many other areas like stage lighting, sound production, set design, journalism, or at the very least give them a hobby to follow and lifelong happy memories of one part of school life.

Tessa Collins
District Choir Co-ordinator