Nine musicians honoured

By MICHELLE DRYBURGH

NINE Wimmera musicians received music scholarships at the annual Weight Family Foundation Concert in Horsham on Saturday.

Among them was Steven Cowan, a music teacher at Kaniva College who received $500 to purchase a sound desk for a new school band.

Foundation patron Wendy Weight, OAM, said Rainbow singer Mariel Macalinao received a $500 scholarship for travel costs to attend rehearsals in Melbourne for the Victorian State Schools Spectacular.

Mrs Weight said $500 scholarships were also awarded to Megan Berry of Donald for dance tuition and Edwin Irvine of Natimuk for acting classes.

“Edwin is an experienced actor and he hopes to enhance his skills by attending the NIDA Acting Studio in January 2011,” she said.

Mrs Weight said Horsham vocalist Maddi Ostapiw received $300 for vocal training and siblings Jesse and Kessia Peterson each received $250 for tuition.

“Jesse learns saxophone at Horsham College and has experimented with percussion. He also plays keyboard with his church group and learns theory at Horsham Music Academy,” she said.

“Kessia learns piano and theory at Horsham Music Academy and greatly enjoys composing her own music.”

Mrs Weight said $200 scholarships were awarded to Lori Andressen for musical theatre tuition and Sandra Kitchen for professional development.

“Lori has weekly lessons in Academy next year. Her scholarship will allow her to attend the Piano Landmarks weekend in Melbourne.”

Former Horsham pianist Matthew Binion took a break from studies in Adelaide to perform a duo with associate artist India Hooi at the Wesley Performing Arts Centre event.

Mrs Weight said a large audience filled the venue and marvelled at the speed of the pianists’ fingers.

“Their grand finale was a stunning performance of Lutoslawski’s Paganini Variations for Two Pianos. Their timing in this difficult work was absolutely synchronised,” she said.

SPECIAL PERFORMERS: Weight Family Foundation Scholarships patron Wendy Weight, centre, with pianists India Hooi and Matthew Binion who both performed at the concert.
WEIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: Back from left, Sandra Kitchen, Edwin Irvine, Steven Cowan, Lori ANDressen; front from left, Mariel Macalinao, Jesse and Kessia Peterson, Megan Berry and Maddi Ostapiw. Pictures: CONTRIBUTED