

Students all fired up



Newcastle's Civic Theatre was alive with the sounds of young voices, a panoply of instruments and dancing feet as the secondary schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle presented Dio Sounds 2011 early in June.

This was the fourth annual event, eagerly anticipated by talented students and their teachers from Aberdeen to Adamstown. The element of fire - a traditional symbol for the Holy Spirit - appeared in various guises throughout the event.

The highlight was undoubtedly the depth and breadth of talent on show. Not only guitars and drums were played, but bagpipes and cello.

Composers ranged from Mendelssohn to Mancini, from Lennon and McCartney to Nicholas O'Brien - a Year 12 student at St Francis Xavier's College, whose "Railway Refrain" was performed acapella by the school choir.

A lively excerpt from the musical *Guys and Dolls* was staged by St Peter's Campus Maitland, showcasing the full scale production they were rehearsing at the time.

Dominic Lacey of St Catherine's College Singleton was an engaging compere and of course, the success of the event was due to the gifts of all the vocalists, dancers and instrumentalists and their teachers and parents who support their endeavours.

