



**MUSICAL MATES:** One half of Vox — the new eight-member choral group formed to share their appreciation of music — from left, Nick Stansbie, Andrew Bray, Helen Duggan and Lyndell Allen — warm up their vocal chords.

# New group keen to share talent

ONE of Ballarat's newest choral groups, will stage a special concert at the Loreto College Chapel early next month.

Vox — the eight-strong performance group, which was formed to promote the love of music in the region — will present a selection of 20th century choral works.

Members of the group received strong praise for their performances following the recent and the successful dinner re-launch of Craig's Royal Hotel earlier this month.

That event, a fundraiser for *The Courier* Charity Fund, raised about \$25,000.

Vox spokesman Peter Freund said the members were delighted to donate their services for the night.

"The group was not formed as a profit-making venture," he said.

## THE INFO

**Who:** Vox

**What:** *BitterSweet*, a program of 20th century choral works.

**When:** November 5, 2:30pm

**Where:** Loreto College Chapel, Sturt St.

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$10 children/concession.

"The funds we raise go towards covering our performance costs.

"Our focus is on providing joy for music lovers — both performers and listeners."

Mr Freund said the group had already performed across the region, including Colac.

Other events are coming up at Ballan and Daylesford.

Vox is comprised of experienced

singers who have all appeared with other choral and singing groups in the district.

"The group was initiated by Lyndell Allen," Mr Freund said.

"Lyndell is a music teacher at Ballarat Grammar and the director of music at the Anglican Cathedral Church of Christ The King in Lydiard St Sth."

Another member of the group is Nick Stansbie, a bass singer with the cathedral choir and a former member of the Coventry Cathedral Choir in England.

Nick is the head of science at Ballarat & Clarendon College.

"We wanted to form an ensemble that would be more flexible (than other singing groups) and take on more adventurous projects," Mr Freund said.

The other members of the group include Alison Ho, Helen Duggan, Amber van Dreven, Andrew Bray and Kyle Hackwill.

The group's members range in age from their early 30s to their late 40s.

Most are music teachers.

Vox's first major performance was at a gala concert performance at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery in July.

Mr Freund said the Craig's performance had been very satisfying.

"We decided to concentrate on works that showcased the group's strengths while appealing to a wide range of tastes," he said.

"Our selections were also linked to the hotel's past."

*Sweet and Low*, a Victorian part song, was chosen because it features on the soundtrack of the classic civil war movie *Gone With The Wind*.

"This formed a connection with the Confederate officer's ball at Craig's in the 1860s," Mr Freund said.