Kids come together for webathon

A group of seven St Francis de Sales music students have come together for the Team Kids Webathon held on October 18 to raise more than $25,000 for the Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

The quintet, accompanied by pianist Jordan Lewis and drummer Reece Graetz, performed two songs on October 18 as they joined students from seven other SA schools for the event which was broadcast on Channel 44 and streamed live on the web.

Participating in the fundraiser was especially poignant for Georgia Malchow and her mother Leanne Malchow who share a connection with the Women’s and Children’s Hospital where Georgia was born.

Previous complications meant hospital staff wanted to closely monitor Ms Malchow during her pregnancy which wasn’t easy considering they were living more than 250km north of Adelaide at the time.

“Even though we had to travel three and a half hours to get there from Peterborough they were incredibly supportive and made sure everything went as smoothly as possible,” she said.

“I am absolutely thrilled Georgia has had the chance to help give something back to the hospital that was there for us when we needed them, it is as though everything has come full circle.” Year 11 student Patrick McLoughlin said it was tough learning a new piece in such a short time but believed it helped him improve as a performer.

“It was very nerve-racking having to perform a song we had only learned three days earlier,” he said.

“Despite the nerves I can say it was definitely a great experience and it really helped with my confidence.”

The group was used to performing in front of a live audience and had to adapt to a new style suited to television, which Tilly Maywald described as difficult but also a rewarding process.

Rehearsing

“We were rehearsing for two and a half hours every day in the lead up to the broadcast because we had never performed in a studio environment before so while it was a bit daunting it was also a great learning experience,” she said.

The students also had the opportunity to receive some special mentoring from professional singer Taasha Coates of the ARIA award winning band The Andews and pianist Jordan Lewis said it was a very valuable experience.

“It was awesome to have the chance to work with Taasha, she was such a professional and she taught us a lot,” she said.