THE CROSSING YOUTH STAGE

Since 2007, The Crossing has been the launchpad where young musicians take their first steps into the spotlight, giving emerging artists something precious – a real stage, a receptive audience, and the supportive embrace of the Cobargo community.

This year's lineup showcases incredible diversity – from 12 year old Emily Wild's soaring vocals on piano and guitar to the Sapphire Coast Anglican College Jazz Band's swing from standards to anime soundtracks and Zella Benko delivering 100% original pop/folk creations. Whether it's the Banana Peel Sliders' horn driven energy, intimate singer songwriter sets from Indy, Tilly or Will Bellville or the harmonically rich chamber-folk of Josie Hurley Band – every performance brings something special. **Saturday only**, so don't miss it.

The Crossing isn't just about showcasing talent – it's about nurturing it. In this safe, encouraging space, young performers build skills, discover their stage presence, and experience the magic of connecting with a live audience.

These young musicians are the future and at Cobargo, the future sounds brilliant.

2026 THE CROSSING PERFORMERS

1 ARATI'S MAGPIE SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

Arati George has been inspiring and guiding singing students of all ages at Magpie School of Music in Bega for nearly 30 years.

A former nationally-performing singer-songwriter, she now shares her expertise and enthusiasm with Bega Valley students of all ages, helping them grow in skill, confidence and creative expression. This year's students are looking forward to entertaining you with their chosen covers in the special supportive environment of The Crossing Stage. Don't miss Grietja Armstead, Jordyn Batey, Lucas Pieper, Maddy Grady, Nina Oke, Coco Tasker, Henry Smerdon, Leo Nosworthy and Jia Singh.

Saturday 10.30am

2 ELISE AND ELSHA

Both from Merimbula, Elise and Elsha performed together for the first time last year at The Crossing Stage and are looking forward to sharing their favourite covers with you again this year.

Saturday 12.20pm

3 EMILY WILD

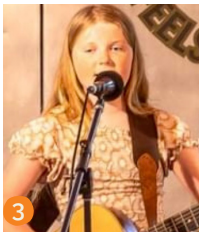
Twelve year old Emily Wild from Candelo is already well known for her singing and playing with the Wild Martinis and the SCLC Stage Band. Emily brings her favourite songs to life with piano and guitar. With agile and soaring vocals, Emily is going places fast.

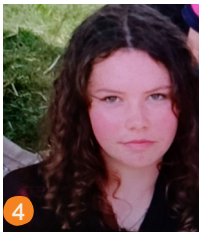
Saturday 12.40pm

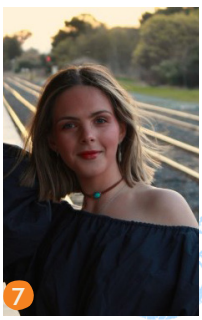
4 GENEVIEVE GOLDSWORTHY

Genevieve is a student of Arati George (voice), Lucas Critchley (guitar) and Ken Vatcher (drums). She is a strong and confident folk singer and guitar player who has performed at The Crossing Stage, Bega Street Festival and Wanderer Festival (Big Lost band). She has many influences including Jeff Buckley and Mazzy Star.

Saturday Midday







5 INDY

Indy is a young musician located in the Bega Valley. Primarily relying on just guitar and vocals, Indy writes her own music inspired by her life, feelings and relationships.

Saturday 2.00pm

6 JOSIE HURLEY BAND

Josie Hurley Band are from Wollongong and Sydney and play original chamber-folk compositions. The band comprises Josie Hurley, Eden Hobbs, Jesse Lane and Tallulah Jade. Inspired by Joni Mitchell, Adrienne Lenker and Nick Drake, the songs are harmonically rich and paired with poetic lyrics on intimacy, nature and spirituality. Only active from August 2025.

Saturday 6.30pm

7 RUBY HOLDEN

2024 CMAA Academy of Country Music graduate, top 6 Grommet at Bluesfest 2025 Busking Comp, Top 20 Busker at her first Tamworth Country Music Festival, Junior Winner ANBC heats Bombala 2024 and Braddon 2025, finalist Ekka Country Music Showdown. Opened for Fanny Lumsden, Amber Lawrence and Kasey Chambers.

Saturday 4.15pm

8 SAPPHIRE COAST ANGLICAN COLLEGE JAZZ BAND

The SCAC Jazz Band was founded in 2022. Their eclectic repertoire ranges from swing to pop covers and even video game and anime tracks. This year's band members are Jonathan Ireland, Lachlan Stewart, Elliot Dawson, Felicity Ireland and Victoria Ireland, accompanied by teachers Steve Fitzgerald and Julian Gonzalez.

Saturday 3.30pm

8

9 THE BANANA PEEL SLIDERS

Watch your step. The Banana Peel Sliders are here, unexpectedly rebooting the classics. They turn timeless hits into something new and delightfully unpredictable, all driven by a powerful horn section and a pure rock-and-roll heart.

Saturday 1.40pm

10 TILLY ROSE

Tilly Rose is a solo singer/songwriter who plays pop-inspired blues covers and originals. Tilly first performed on stage as a 12-year-old and her highlight so far has been performing at Gympie Music Muster in 2024.

Saturday 3.00pm

11 IRIS ZARRELLA

Iris is a rising name in the Shoalhaven, with a voice beyond her 14 years. She has been captivating audiences since the age of 7, performing at many festivals,

Saturday 2.30pm

12 WILL BEVILLE

Singer/guitar player with a passion for mainly Irish and Australian folk. Mix of covers and originals. Roots in Southern Highlands but currently living in Melbourne. Playing for eight years now, only performing recently. Performing at Bundanoon Folk Festival!

Saturday 5.45pm

13 ZELLA BENKO

Zella Benko is a prodigious Sydney pop/folk/country singer-songwriter who performs 100% original music. She played a solo set at Tamworth Country Music Festival, won multiple vocal awards and Sydney Eisteddfod titles, received international songwriting recognition, and aims to record her first album.

Saturday 5.00pm

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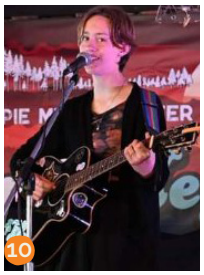
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