



vision australia's carols by candlelight Christmas Eve 8pm, Channel 9

Presented by AAM Broadcast ##5







Brighter together

elcome to Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight. An Australian tradition, Carols by Candlelight has been bringing people together to spread the joy of Christmas for 84 years.

This year has been a challenging one, but it hasn't stopped Vision Australia from supporting thousands of children who are blind or have low vision and their families.

In a year when many parts of childhood have had to be put on hold, Vision Australia has again been there as children excel at school, learn to use the equipment they need to be independent, develop their social and other important life skills and much, much more.

This year, we hope you can be part of the magic of Carols by Candlelight through your generosity. All funds raised through Carols by Candlelight go directly to our children's services and your support will light up the lives of so many children who are blind or have low vision and their families across Australia.

Merry Christmas! Ron Hooton, Vision Australia CEO



ighting up lives for 84 years

n December 24, 1938, Melbourne hosted its very first Carols by Candlelight when about 10,000 people came together at midnight at Alexandra Gardens to sing carols, backed by a small choir, two soloists and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Carols by Candlelight began as the concept of

Norman Banks MBE, a veteran of radio. On Christmas Eve in 1937, he noticed an elderly woman sitting by her window, her face lit only by a candle. Next to her was a radio and she was singing along to the Christmas carol Away in a Manger. It was at this moment that Banks was inspired to create a gathering of people to sing Carols by Candlelight.

Now, this beloved annual pilgrimage celebrates 84 years of entertainment, more than 60 years of performances at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and more than six decades supporting children who are blind or have low vision and their families.

Australia, let's end 2021 brighter together. Vision Australia would like you to

join us this Christmas Eve at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl for a night of unforgettable live performances, or watch the broadcast live from 8pm on Channel 9 and 9Now.

For more information, visit carolsbycandlelight.com.au The 84th Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight is presented by AAMI.

AAMI is thrilled to support Vision Australia as the official presenting partner for Carols by Candlelight



this year. As one of Australia's leading insurers, we know the important role we play in supporting the community and we're proud to be helping families and children through Vision Australia in this way, especially at Christmas time.

Vision Australia's commitment to helping people who are blind or have low vision achieve independence aligns so well to our Group's purpose, building futures and protecting what matters.

We are very proud to be part of this iconic Australian tradition and look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas with the whole community. Lisa Harrison, Suncorp Group **CEO Insurance Product** and Portfolio

> *AAMI is part of the Suncorp Network of brands.

Channel 9 is proud to be partnering once again with Vision Australia to broadcast the 84th edition of Carols by Candlelight.



After another tough year for Victorians and being unable to perform to a crowd last year, it is a pleasure to be able to bring back this Christmas Eve tradition to families and to raise money for children who are blind or have low vision.

On behalf of Nine, I would like to wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. **Matt James, Nine Melbourne** managing director







Candlelight, presented by AAMI, live from the Sidney

Myer Music Bowl on Friday, December 24, at 8pm on Channel 9 and 9Now. "I can't wait to be back

hosting Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight this year," Ally said. "I love Christmas! It's such a special time of the year, especially when you have small kids. I couldn't be happier to be

Australians, I'm so glad that crowds are back to help lift our Christmas spirits."

Familiar faces and new stars will grace the stage to perform everyone's favourite Christmas songs and carols, including Nine's beloved stalwarts David Hobson, Marina Prior, Silvie

Tickets to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl can be purchased at carolsbycandlelight.com.au

be a part of such a Christmas Eve tradition, and to be able to bring some Christmas joy to families all over Australia. It's always a wonderful night for a great cause, raising much-needed funds for Vision Australia. And after such a tough year for millions of

Paladino, Anthony Callea, Tim Campbell and Denis Walter.

Returning by popular demand will be Rob Mills, Bobby Fox and ARIA award winner Dami Im.

Casey Donovan will bring her powerhouse vocals to the Sidney Myer Music

David Campbell



Bowl along with Australia's hottest new country music group, Darlinghurst, who will be making their Carols by Candlelight debut.

Australian rock royalty Joe Camilleri returns this year with his chart-topping band, The Black Sorrows, and will take to the stage with an unforgettable high-energy festive number.

West End and Australian music theatre star Simon Gleeson is back for another captivating performance.

Bonnie Anderson will continue the all-star line-up when she returns to spread more Christmas cheer and global singer Isaiah Firebrace will also light up the stage.

Australia's leading ladies of musical theatre, Esther Hannaford, Lucy Durack and Christie Whelan Browne,

will deliver a festive classic, while Mahalia Barnes joins her brother, David Campbell, to perform a breathtaking rendition of a carols classic.

We also celebrate the return of musical theatre with performances by the casts of Hamilton, Frozen the Musical and Moulin Rouge.

A visit from the man in red is always a magical moment. The bells will be ringing when Santa arrives to deliver some festive cheer to children and families around the country.

Plus, there will be performances from the Australian Girls Choir and the National Boys Choir.

The Carols by Candlelight orchestra returns under the baton of musical director John Foreman, assisted by choir master Doug Heywood, who

celebrates more than three decades leading the choir.

Doug said, "After the challenges of 2021, I think this carols will be more special than ever. This joyful event ends on such a high note and I'm thrilled that we can finally share this in front of a live audience once again. I not only celebrate my 80th birthday, I am delighted to say that for more than 30 years, I have been part of an event that gives back to a charity that needs support."

Carols by Candlelight is Vision Australia's biggest annual fundraiser for children's services, with 100 per cent of profits from ticket sales going directly towards supporting more than 2300 families whose children

We all need a little Christmas

The dynamic Bonnie Anderson will join a star-studded line-up of Aussie performers this Christmas Eve. We chat with Bonnie about what makes her festive season bright.

After a year apart from our loved ones, who are you most looking forward to spending

Christmas is my favourite time of the year. Being around my nephews is the best part; seeing their faces light up in their absolute element.

Describe your perfect Christmas day.

Waking up as early as possible, watching my family and loved ones in their PJs, opening their gifts, laughing and having family time ... lots of delicious food and more family time!

What is a cherished Christmas tradition from your childhood?

l always loved how busy Christmas day was, making sure we saw all the family, going from house to house, lunch to lunch, and then coming home at night and enjoying music and winding down after the Christmas chaos.

If you could travel anywhere in the world to spend Christmas, where would it be and why?

> I have always dreamt of a white Christmas. One day I would love to do that with my own family. One of those things I will tick off my bucket list eventually.

Name one of the best gifts you have ever received.

A white horse ... I was eight years old, we lived on a farm, and while I was opening presents my parents told me to look out the window and there was a beautiful white pony, and I named her Pretty. That was one to remember.

What is one of your favourite Christmas

carols and why? Probably All I Want for Christmas is You by Mariah Carey ... her whole album has always been my favourite as I grew up listening to it. I honestly enjoy so many carols. All the old-school soul



With the help of Vision Australia's children's services teams, these three incredible kids are

istory buff Ethan
Bradley was diagnosed
with oculocutaneous
albinism in 2011 when he was
eight weeks old. One look at
Ethan's lack of pigment in his
hair, skin and eyes confirmed
some of the clear signs of
albinism — but Ethan hasn't let
the condition get in the way of
adapting to life without sight.

The Vision Australia team was there within a week of Ethan's diagnosis, supporting him through every hurdle.

"Vision Australia have really helped me navigate my way around obstacles using a cane as well as making sure I can do things such as being able to get on public transport by myself when I'm a bit older," Ethan said.

"Sometimes I get a little distracted, which can be frustrating, but my occupational therapists, Lani and Marg, do a really good job with providing good ideas on how to make things much easier."

Ethan continues to surprise everyone in so many ways and while he sometimes needs a cane to get around, he's an excellent bike rider, loves getting on his scooter and enjoys bushwalking with his brothers, Sam and Chris.

An ambition of Ethan's is to be able to inspire others and he is determined to educate people about some of his day-to-day challenges.

He would love nothing more than world peace and would like everyone in the world to be kind to one another

Ethan said, "Vision Australia has helped me and my family a lot and it's now my turn to help them raise some money for people just like me. I want people to learn about Vision Australia as well as my challenges."

In his spare time, he loves playing interactive video games and he recently received his purple belt in karate. Ethan loves being surrounded by family and friends and is always up for an adventure.

He's looking forward to braving it on some scary rides at a theme park one day soon and he has never eaten Japanese food, but would love to. Sushi, anyone?



ust like his older brother Ethan, Sam was born with oculocutaneous albinism, yet his twin brother Chris was not. Concerns about the impact this condition would have on Sam's life were instantly met with the help and services provided by Vision Australia.

Vision Australia has been a lifelong lifesaver for Sam, 8, Ethan, 10, and their entire family. "To date, we have always tried to take it one step at a time. If one of the boys is struggling with a particular task we seek guidance through Vision Australia's services to achieve that particular goal," their mum, Rebecca, said. "We instil as much independence as possible in both Ethan and Sam, to ensure they have the right tools and therapies to be able to live their life as independent as they can now and in the future."

Oculocutaneous albinism is a condition that affects the production of melanin and is critical to eye function and development.

When asked what it's like to have low vision, Sam said, "I get a lot of help at school when I need it and even though I can't see that well, I have a lot of friends in the playground who help me.

"The yellow paint around

the school helps me not run into things. I can see certain colours but I don't read very well. I need to hold the words close to my eyes and sometimes use my magnifier. If I don't have my sunglasses on, the sun hurts my eyes."

Sam is confident in his own skin and happy to discuss his condition with others. He also isn't afraid to ask for help.

With the support of Vision

Australia, Sam has been able to grow his independence and can do anything his full-sighted friends can.

When Sam is not singing at the top of his voice, he enjoys karate, kicking the footy and playing with his friends. When he grows up he would love to work in a grocery shop and enlist his mate Henry to do the deliveries. He also dreams of one day owning a Lamborghini.





overcoming their disability to achieve amazing things



A positive future lies ahead for Winter thanks to the valuable support from Vision Australia

Inter Taylor was only nine days old when she was diagnosed with a bilateral congenital cataract in her left eye, a rare condition that causes a dense cataract blocking almost all vision.

At only three months old, Winter had cataract removal surgery and now wears a hard contact lens on her left eye and a patch on her right to assist with her overall eye development.

The team at Vision Australia was there from the first days of her diagnosis, providing the Taylor family with specialist care and support for their toddler.

"The support we have received from Vision Australia has been second to none,"

Winter's mum Georgia said. "Personally, I found the whole world of early intervention and NDIS applications confusing and confronting. It was Vision Australia who guided me through the process and assisted in helping me select a team to help Winter in the areas we felt she was developmentally delayed."

Winter has achieved some major milestones in just over a year, despite not being able to attend Vision Australia's facility centre due to lockdowns.

"A recent check-up with her ophthalmologist showed one of Winter's best readings to date," Georgia said.

"Winter has had to wear a patch in her good eye and we were thrilled to see that her

weak eye is catching up. The day-to-day struggles of having to wear a patch has been worth it and seeing an improvement in Winter's sight has been hugely rewarding."

Winter Taylor, 2, with

her brother, Reuben, 5

(inset) with her mum, Georgia

The team at Vision Australia has helped Winter and Georgia to gain confidence, and is providing the family with the right tools to ensure Winter can do anything she sets her mind to as she continues to grow.

"When we first found out about her condition we were devastated and thought it was the end of the world. But with the help of Vision Australia and a lot of research to understand the condition better, we have adapted and we will continue to adapt as Winter grows up," Georgia said.

Donna's passion shines bright

Award-winning songwriter Donna Dyson aims to leave a lasting legacy through her music

onna Dyson's life changed dramatically when, without warning, a medical diagnosis in 2012 left her legally blind.

Donna lost her sight, her significant educational and academic career, and had to relearn to walk — using a white cane — but she also found her creative vision for music and song writing.

Fast forward to 2021 and Donna is an awardwinning songwriter and Vision Australia's national ambassador.

She will be supporting this year's Carols by Candlelight as the composer of Vision Australia's new carol, to be performed by one of the extraordinary Carols performers and choir to celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

"I'm deeply honoured to be involved in this year's Carols by Candlelight. My **Christmas composition** is full of hope, heart and light. We've been through challenging times and these lyrics are my Christmas gift of hope and love to everyone who hears the song," Donna said.

Donna made her sight loss into an opportunity to create and record a stream of songs. Within four years she had won the APRA/ ASA Songwriter of the Year award along with Damien Leith, and many national and international awards as a solo creator and collaborator. She has three labels signed with MGM and ABC.

Her other passion is children's music.

Her expertise in early years literacy and language development is evident in her highly awarded children's label Spotty Kites.



A regular on ABC Kids Listen, Spotty Kites was shortlisted by the AIR Awards, and globally streamed, with more than 50 No.1 songs on the iTunes children's charts.

"I'm blessed to be contributing to two careers in my life. I hope to leave a long legacy through my music, and I will always speak, educate and advocate for the betterment of others," she said.

When asked about her role as national ambassador, Donna said, "I'm grateful to advocate the importance of lighting up the year ahead for many Vision Australia clients and we are sincerely grateful to everyone who contributes to help us achieve these goals."



Australia, let's end the year brighter together.

Your generous donation to Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight presented by AAMI will make such a difference to kids who are blind or have low vision, like Sam.

Help light up lives this Christmas. Donate now at givetocarols.com

\$30

could help give kids access to braille and tactile book kits, so they can enjoy storytime too

\$60

could pay for long white canes to help kids get to school safely

\$100

could help provide daily living skill sessions to learn the basics of self-care

\$500

could help set up the best assistive technology so students can thrive

DONATE NOW





Children's

services

Vision Australia

provides specialist

services that support families to help their children achieve the greatest levels of independence.



1472

Feelix storybook kits were borrowed, helping 446 of our youngest clients achieve learning milestones.

students were awarded Vision Australia further education bursaries, providing them with adaptive technology such as screen readers and visual aids.





do with your help

Here's what donations like yours helped make possible this year



162,500

print pages were converted into accessible formats including Braille, e-text, large print and tactual graphics.



Seeing Eye Dogs were matched with clients, including our youngest ever recipient, aged 14.

To help children develop skills to move around safely and independently.

MOBILITY SERVICES

PHYSICAL. OCCUPATIONAL and **SPEECH THERAPIES** To develop everyday living skills such as getting dressed, preparing food or brushing their teeth.

COUNSELLING With the input of parents and other role models, we offer support to children and their families.

EARLY EDUCATION Services such as our Feelix Library allow children to learn in a unique sensory way and supports their literacy skills.

BRAILLE and **ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY** Helping children to enter mainstream education using the techniques of their choice to read, write

and communicate.

92 people

381 **LEGO®**

Braille Brick kits

were distributed to schools and institutions,

in partnership with

the LEGO Foundation,

to enhance learning

outcomes for children

who are blind or have

low vision.

people attended our third Careers Sampler event, designed to help young people who are blind or have low vision explore future career possibilities.

1817 children

received more than 30,791 hours of physiotherapy, speech pathology, orientation and mobility or early intervention.

9 teens

aged 14-18 years took part in LEAP Up, a five-week program that helps students prepare for tertiary education.

2 paediatric hubs

were established for management by a centralised paediatric team, building our capability to contribute to our young clients' lifelong independence and social inclusion.







Sing loud and clear, with extra good cheer. We are all together again and ready to celebrate health, hope and harmony for Christmas

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright 'Round yon virgin Mother and Child Holy infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night Son of God, oh, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace Jesus, Lord at Thy birth Jesus, Lord at Thy birth Jesus, Lord at Thy birth





Hallelujah Chorus

Public Domain

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth Hallelujah Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth Hallelujah (repeat twice)

The Kingdom of this world Is become the Kingdom of our Lord And of His Christ, and of His Christ And He shall reign for ever and ever (repeat three times)

King of Kings

Forever and ever Hallelujah, Hallelujah And Lord of Lords Forever and ever Hallelujah, Hallelujah (repeat)

King of Kings

Forever and ever Hallelujah, Hallelujah And Lord of Lords King of Kings and Lord of Lords And He shall reign, and He shall reign And He shall reign, and He shall reign

Forever and ever King of Kings Hallelujah, Hallelujah And Lord of Lords Hallelujah, Hallelujah He shall reign forever and ever

King of Kings and Lord of Lords King of Kings and Lord of Lords He shall reign forever and ever Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Halle-lu-jaaaah

Oh Come All

O come, all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him

Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him

O come. let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful to Bethlehem

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful to Bethlehem

Oh, sing, choirs of angels

Sing in exultation

Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him

Born the King of Angels

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come. let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Oh Holy Night

Public Domain

O holy night the stars are brightly shining It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth Long lay the world in sin and error pining Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks a new glorious morn Fall on your knees

O hear the angels' voices

O night divine

O night when Christ was born

O night divine o night

O night divine

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks a new glorious morn Fall on your knees O hear the angels' voices

O night divine

O night when Christ was born

O night divine o night

O night divine

Ooh yes it was

Ooh it is the night of our dear Savior's birth

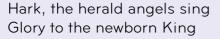
Oh yeah, oh yeah, yeah It was a holy holy holy, oh oh oh



Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Public Domain

Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King Peace on earth, and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled Joyful, all ye nations, rise Join the triumph of the skies With th' angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem



Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of peace
Hail! the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the some of earth
Born to give them second birth

Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Hark, the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Peace on earth, and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled Joyful, all ye nations, rise Join the triumph of the skies With th' angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark, the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King



Jingle Bells

Public Domain

Dashing through the snow In a one-horse open sleigh Over the fields we go Laughing all the way Bells on bobtails ring Making spirits bright What fun it is to ride and sing A sleighing song tonight

Jingle bells, jingle bells Jingle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride In a one-horse open sleigh

A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upsot

Jingle bells, jingle bells Jingle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride In a one-horse open sleigh

A day or two ago
The story I must tell
I went out on the snow
And on my back I fell
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh
He laughed as there I sprawling lie
But quickly drove away

Jingle bells, jingle bells Jingle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride In a one-horse open sleigh Song of Joy

Composer: de Los Rios/Parker/Orbe
Come sing a song of joy
For peace shall come my brother
Sing, sing a song of joy
For men shall love each other

That day will dawn
Just as sure
As hearts that are pure
Are hearts set free
No man must stand alone
With outstretched hand before him

Reach out and take them in yours With love that endures for evermore Then sing a song of joy For love and understanding

Come sing a song of joy
For peace shall come my brother
Sing, sing a song of joy
For men shall love each other

That day will dawn just as sure
As hearts that are pure are hearts set free
No man must stand alone
With outstretched hand before him

Reach out and take them in yours With love that endures for evermore Then sing a song of joy For love and understanding

One mighty voice
That will bring a sound
That will ring for evermore
Then sing a song of joy
For love and understanding







Joy to the World

Joy to the world Joy to the world Joy to the world, the Lord is come Let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the world Joy to the world Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns! Let men their songs employ While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

Joy to the world, now we sing Let the earth receive her king Joy to the world, now we sing Let the angel voices ring Joy to the world, now we sing Let men their songs employ Joy to the world, now we sing Repeat the sounding joy Oh oh

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The light of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders, of His love And wonders, wonders, of His love Joy to the world, now we sing Let the earth receive her king Joy to the world, now we sing Let the angel voices ring

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional

We wish you a Merry Christmas We wish you a Merry Christmas We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring To you and your kin We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

Now bring us some figgy pudding Now bring us some figgy pudding Now bring us some figgy pudding And a cup of good cheer! Good tidings we bring To you and your kin We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

We won't go until we get some We won't go until we get some We won't go until we get some So bring it right here! Good tidings we bring To you and your kin We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

We wish you a Merry Christmas We wish you a Merry Christmas We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year! Good tidings we bring To you and your kin We wish you a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year!

Angels We Have Heard on High

Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly, sweetly through the night And the mountains in reply Echoing their brief delight

Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo

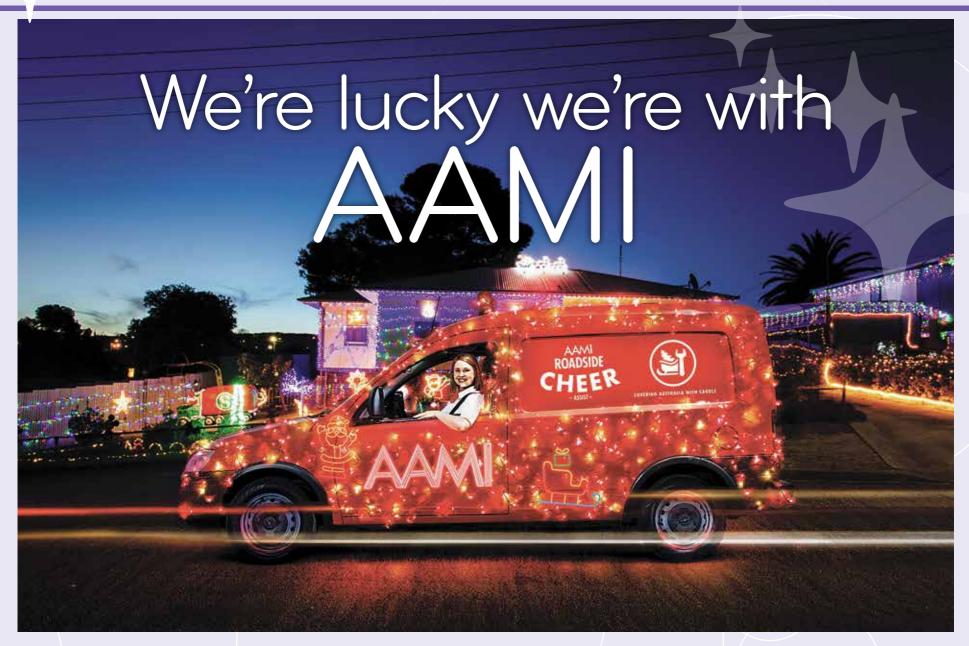
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing, Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo Gloria, in excelsis Deo

MORE SONGS THAT WILL BE PERFORMED ON THE NIGHT ...

The First Noel, The Holy City, Mary's Boy Child, You Make Me Feel Like Christmas, Sleigh Ride, That's What Christmas Means to Me, Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, All I Want for Christmas is You, Good King Wenceslas, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Winter Wonderland, Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, Frosty the Snowman, Let It Snow, Silver Bells, Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.

Please note due to copyright restrictions, only the lyrics of songs in the public domain can be included.



o help spread the spirit of Christmas, AAMI's roadside assistance vehicle was transformed into a Christmas fair on wheels when it hit Melbourne's streets during December.

Awash in festive red, the AAMI Roadside Cheer Van adorned in tinsel and lights was used to transport choir members across Melbourne, to give local communities, families and charities a surprise performance.

Suncorp Group executive general manager brand and marketing Mim Haysom said, "After a year of so much uncertainty, people want something to celebrate — particularly those in

Melbourne who endured the longest lockdowns.

"We couldn't wait to get our AAMI Roadside Cheer Van out on the streets to give as many people as possible the chance to sing with the choir in person. With so many of our interactions being virtual recently, it was so special being able to spread the joy face to face and engage people with the music on a personal level."

The cheer van visited a number of locations around Melbourne and surrounding suburbs, including Vision Australia's Seeing Eye Dogs training facility.

Rebecca Bradley, along with her two inspirational

sons, Carols by Candlelight ambassadors Ethan and Sam, joined the fun when the cheer van dropped in at the Seeing Eye Dogs training facility.

Rebecca praised the work of Vision Australia and welcomed AAMI's support.

"Vision Australia means so much to our family. As a parent, it is so reassuring to have a professional support network just a phone call, email or visit away," Rebecca said.

"We are forever thankful for the support we have received and continue to receive from Vision Australia, and the funding of their work from generous sponsors like AAMI.

"We know that Ethan and Sam may experience further difficulties coping with different elements of their vision impairment as they get older. To know that we will have the help along the way is so encouraging."

As the sun goes down on December 24, some 10,000 people will make their way to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl to sing along to festive favourites such as *Silent Night, Little Drummer Boy* and *White Christmas*, while more than two million across the country are expected to tune into the national broadcast.

"Whether connecting in person at the event, gathering to watch one of the special screenings at Village Cinemas or virtually through the Channel 9 national broadcast, nothing unites the nation quite like Carols by Candlelight. AAMI is delighted to be part of this incredible and iconic event which brings so much joy and supports such an important cause," Mim said.

Since 1969, AAMI has played a role helping generations of Australians overcome adversity.

Supporting Australians during tough times, AAMI is synonymous with the principles that Vision Australia applies in helping families and their children achieve the greatest levels of independence.













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WHO HELPS COVER AUSTRALIA WITH CAROLS?



This year, AAMI is giving more people in more places the chance to join in and sing along with Vision Australia's Carols by Candlelight.

Our Roadside Cheer Van has been helping to spread the Christmas cheer across the country. And for even more Christmas cheer, AAMI is providing a year of free Roadside Assist with every new comprehensive car insurance policy.* Visit aami.com.au to find out more.





DONATE NOW givetocarols.com