

## Pasko 2009 brings Christmas joy to Melbourne

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Pasko brings families, friends and a community together – and that is exactly what the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pasko sa Nayon (Christmas in the Village 2009) evening concert delivered at the dazzling BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square on Saturday 12 December 2009.



Organised by Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc and several Filipino organisation project partners, the Pasko sa Nayon Concert showcased outstanding Filipino talents who agreed to perform free for the community. Photo (*left*) shows volunteers from Circulo Capizeno and Pamapangueno Club help out at the ticket booth.

Councillor Jennifer Kanis from the City of Melbourne was Guest Speaker and spoke about the 2009 Pasko theme “*gen2gen: generations together*”. Dr Luigi Soccio launched the Pasko Community CD, a cultural project funded by the Centre for Philippine

Concerns Australia (CPCA) to reach out to Filipinos in rural areas or who are socially isolated. He praised the 2009 Cultural Ambassadors, Tita Cris and Tito Conrado Aguilar who are currently in Australia voluntarily teaching and performing Angklung music with Filipino seniors in the Southeast Region. Cris was the Musical Director for Pasko 2009, assisted by Tito Ado and their daughter Abigail Espedillon .

Sheralyn Hill, the 10-year old singing sensation from Frankston wowed the audience with her opening vocals “Gabing Payapa” as entrée to the *panunuluyan* narrative. Barry Buckle and Zeny Wiles from Geelong gave a strong rendition of Silent Night. Kathleen Wright, a stunner in her self-designed Filipiniana dress moved the audience with Away in a Manger. Mother and daughter duo, Aurora and Irene Bosmans, charged the pace with the Visayan oldie Kami ng Pilipino and Silver Bells. The renown Sanghimig Choir (*right*)



entranced the crowd with Pasko na Sintá Ko, before they had every one bopping along memory lane to favourite medley of Ang Pasko ay Sumapit, Pasko Na and other carols.

Not to be outdone, the *Tunog Kawayan* Cultural Group (*below*), the Young Generation Filipino Seniors Club (YG) and the young PilipinOz HipHop Group thrilled the spectators with *Tugtugan at Sayawan* Filipino folk dances that included Parulan, *Pandanggo sa Ilaw* and *Sayaw sa Bangko*. The Group delighted the audience with the unique bamboo music from the Marimba ensemble. The teen aged PilpinOz Hip Hop then changed costumes and moved the crowd from folk dance to hip hop groove with amazing ease and enthusiasm.



The children's band Backyard Boyz Band belted out *Sana Ngayong Pasko* and *All I want for Christmas* to much applause. To follow suit, the baby boomers Summer Notes Band led by Joey Santos gave the crowd a run for their money with a colourful *Give Love on Christmas Day*, *Have Yourself a Merry Christmas* and several encore numbers. The night finished with meryenda of *biko*, *sapin sapin*, *pansit*, *pandesal*, *maja blanca*, *polvoron*, *pastillas de leche* and other Filipino delicacies.

**NOTE:** The event took 10 months of community mentoring to complete, so we give heartfelt thanks to the government, project partners and volunteers whose generosity and hard work turned this dream into a hugely successful event: BACNI Network members and organisations; CPCA Board and members; Terry, Boy and Capizeno Club; Judy, Michael and Pampangueno Club; 3SERadio especially Jim and Bryce; the FAFAGeelong mob; the MISCI group; Fed Square staff; MicroHire technicians; the VMC; Melbourne City Council; community media reps and all the performers who gave their time and talents to a very appreciative community. **Salamat po at maligayang Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat!**