



DOCEMUS AWARDS 2015 CITATION

CATEGORY: VOLUNTEER SUPPORTER

RECOMMENDATION: Mrs Jan O'Donnell, Our Lady Help of Christians School

CITATION:

It is a great pleasure to announce that the recipient of the Docemus Award in the Volunteer category for 2015 is Mrs Jan O'Donnell.

For the past 30+ years Jan has shared her passion for music with the students of Our Lady Help of Christians School by conducting the school choir.

Jan unselfishly gives up her time to prepare the children for what has been in a number of cases a life changing experience. The confidence that the children gain, the satisfaction and the sheer joy on the faces of the children is what Jan says brings her back year after year. Some of these children have never sung in front of a live audience and to be given the opportunity is a rare blessing. Jan encourages the children to do their best, smile and enjoy themselves no matter what the result. Each year Jan continues to amaze our school community with her ability to change a group of young and mostly inexperienced students into a "choir of angels", full of confidence and enthusiasm. Year after year the choir has had a number of boys participate in the choir.

Jan began in 1980 entering the choir in only one section. Over the years she has entered more sections and under her leadership the choir has received the Aggregate trophy 24 times out of a possible 24 years. The trophy is awarded to the choir with the most points in all 4 sections they enter. Jan has also lead the choir not once but 3 times in winning the most prestigious choir award at the Eisteddfod.

Last year OLHOC School and Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee and again Jan was there to offer her services. She conducted the choir and accompanied soloists. Over the years she has voluntarily conducted the choir at concerts, masses, liturgies, and community events to name but a few. At a Parish level Jan has also volunteered her services for over 30 years, by playing the organ every weekend at one of the Parish masses.

The OLHOC community is blessed to have such a wonderfully caring, giving lady supporting the cultural interests of the students in the school.

Please join me in congratulating Jan as she is presented with the Docemus Award in the Volunteer category.