

## NEWS

# Stars of the future show their talent

THERE were nerves aplenty and lots of big smiles as more than 200 young performers took to the stage in Buninyong yesterday.

The Ballarat Centre of Music and the Arts held their annual mid-year showcase with six and a half hours of non-stop performances from their talented students at Buninyong Golf Club.

Dancers, singers and actors all had their moment in the spotlight with performances ranging from solos and dance to a 10-minute "trailer" of the junior musical theatre course's production of *Mulan* which opens in July.

BCMA director Paula Heenan said there were 82 children involved in *Mulan*, 36 performing in the showcase of musical theatre items, 16 different dance classes and a range of soloists on the program.

"This is all about giving

performance opportunities to our students," Ms Heenan said.

The mid-year festival is also the school's major fundraiser for the year, with money collected going toward production costs.

Ms Heenan said it was a busy time of year for the performers, many of whom are in their own school productions and competing across the state. Eight young performers also won roles in BLOC's *Beauty and the Beast* production, with opening night less than two weeks away.

While some students are old-hands at being on stage, the showcase marked the showbiz debut for many. "We've got lots of kids who have performed before, but we've also got a lot of six and seven-year-olds and it will be their first time doing anything like this."

— MICHELLE SMITH



**ACTING:** Jinah Waters performs with emotion during the BCMA mid year festival at Buninyong. Pictures: Lachlan Bence



**GROUP:** Christopher Vann in the cast of *Mulan* at the BCMA mid-year showcase held at Buninyong Golf Club.



**VOICE:** Emily Meade sings up a storm as part of the BCMA junior musical theatre cast of *Mulan*.