



Country star comes bearing gifts

BY VANESSA BROWN

AWARD-WINNING Country Music Channel (CMC) artist Amber Lawrence visited St Mary's College last Thursday as part of a regional tour for the Astar For Schools Music Month.

Miss Lawrence delivered a live performance to the Years 7 and 9-10 music classes then answered questions from the students before presenting the Creative Arts department with a Fender guitar and \$2000 cheque to be put back into educational resources.

Each student received a CMC hat, with three CMC albums and a copy of Miss Lawrence's newly released album **When It**

All Comes Down, also being given away.

The star has won a host of awards, including Independent Artist of the Year and Independent Album of the Year at last year's APRA (Australasian Performing Right Association) Music Awards, and, most recently, APRA/AMCOS Australian Independent Country Single of the Year for **The Mile**.

Miss Lawrence also visited schools in Armidale and Tamworth last week but it was the first time she's come to Gunnedah.

"It's been great to come here. It's nice to see the town and play live for the kids. We had some excellent tambourine players in

the audience. It was good fun," she said.

"I'm a country singer so I'm excited to be getting out into the country and talking to kids about how I've chased my dreams and goals. I have played at a few schools in the past and it's definitely one of the highlights of being an artist."

TAS (Technological and Applied Studies) and Creative Arts co-ordinator Angelique Langton was thrilled with the gifts.

"It's a great experience for the kids and an amazing opportunity for a country school. For it to cost us nothing and receive all of this in return is exceptional," she said.



COUNTRY music star Amber Lawrence visited St Mary's College last Thursday to deliver a live performance and hand over a Fender guitar and a \$2000 cheque as part of the Astar for schools Music Month. From left, James Boxsell (Year 9), James Stewart (Year 10), India Garrett (Year 9) and Talisa Miller (Year 9).