



Country star shares her latest music with O'Connor

AWARD-WINNING country artist Amber Lawrence (pictured) visited O'Connor Catholic College for a performance and information session during a special school assembly.

Ms Lawrence answered questions and offered tips on the music industry as she rolled out 'AUSTAR for Schools', a program run through pay TV channel AUSTAR, which enables O'Connor to access 20 educational television channels for free.

The O'Connor visit was the Ms Lawrence's first with AUSTAR, although she says she likes to visit schools while on tour.

She will also visit McCarthy Catholic College in Tamworth and St Mary's College in Gunnedah during her time promoting the AUSTAR program.

"I've always enjoyed visiting schools when I tour, even before I got involved with AUSTAR," she said,

"It's particularly rewarding to visit students at regional schools, some of whom never have the opportunity to see any live music."

Ms Lawrence has had a number of videos on AUSTAR's Country Music Channel (CMC).

The singer-songwriter has released an album and has been nominated for an APRA Award - a highly regarded award from the Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA).

At the end of Ms Lawrence's performance and talk, AUSTAR presented a \$2000 cheque to the school.

"AUSTAR travels to schools offering educational channels, but we change the theme of our visits each month, and feature people from our different channels," AUSTAR for Schools program coordinator Jill Stewart said.

Monthly themes have included healthy lifestyles, sports and science.

"We ask that our \$2000 be spent on something related to the theme of the month," Ms Stewart said.

After touring schools in Armidale, Tamworth and Gunnedah during October, Ms Lawrence plans to continue visiting schools independently of AUSTAR and tour along the coast promoting her latest album, *When it All Comes Down*.

She will stop over in Tamworth for the



Country Music Festival during her tour.

"My album has that traditional country sound, but the topics I sing about are not traditionally associated with country music," Ms Lawrence said.

"I don't sing about the land - I didn't grow up in the country.

"I sing about my life as a 28-year-old woman."

Ms Lawrence's independent album is available through MGM.