

Teen returns for festival

BY NATHAN HALE

FANS of Portarlinton's National Celtic Festival will be well aware of the name Siobhan Owen.

The Adelaide teenager has already made two appearances at the June festival, and is set to make that three when this year's event takes place over the weekend of June 10-13.

A firm favourite with the huge crowds that pack Portarlinton over the weekend, 17-year-old Owen is a classic singer and harpist.

Born in Anglesey, North Wales, Owen moved with her family to Australia when she was just two.

By primary school she was singing in the choir and not long after she was having private lessons, honing her angelic voice.

"I was just humming along in the back of the car one day and mum heard me and thought that my voice sounded okay," Owen recalled.

"So from there I joined the choir – that was when I was about seven or eight – and I have been singing ever since."

Despite having performed for many years, Owen admits she is still not that confident in the limelight.

Since adding the harp to her repertoire, however, she admits she has become more comfortable on stage.

"I have been playing the harp for about the last three years now and I find it really calms me down when I am on stage," Owen said.

"It is like having another person on stage with me."

Making her first appearance at Portarlinton as a 15-year-old, Owen wowed crowds with her amazing voice has been on the festival's 'must-have' list ever since.

Currently in the first year of a Music Education degree, Owen admits it can be tough to juggle musical appearances with school work, but she is enjoying every minute of it.

Apart from Portarlinton, Owen has attended the National Folk Festival in Canberra and the Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes, New South Wales.

"Portarlinton is one of my favourite



festivals," Owen admitted.

"It's a great place to play and I enjoy coming back."

Despite her obvious talent and the opportunities ahead of her on stage, Owen is – at present – favouring sharing her abilities with others.

"I'd really like to teach music in secondary school and still do some performing on the side," Owen said.

For more on Siobhan Owen, visit her website at www.siobhanowen.com

For more on the festival, visit www.nationalcelticfestival.com

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a double pass!

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the *Enterprize* tall ship will incur an additional sailing charge).

For your chance to win this great prize, simply email editor@surfcoasttimes.com.au with the words 'Celtic Festival' in the subject line.

Entries close Thursday, June 2, with the winner to be notified by email on Friday, June 3.