

December 2011

Volume 8 #4

COY Notations

Grant Providers

NSW Department of
Education & Communities



Arts NSW
ETC - Enterprise & Training
Company Ltd

Local Supporters

- * Coffs Coast Independent
- * Park Beach Music & Hi Fi
- * Coffs Coast Travel
- * Jetty Memorial Theatre
- * Mid Coast Printing
- * The Book Warehouse
- * Design Studio 22
- * FOCUS magazine

Inside this Issue:

My time at Grafton Artsfest

Page 2

Why is Music Education
Important?

Page 2

NAB Schools First Grant

Page 3

Scholarship Winners

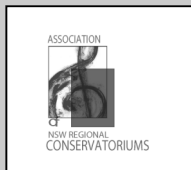
Page 4

Thank You –
Sponsors and Supporters!

Page 4



Member of the Association
of NSW Regional
Conservatoriums Inc



Quarterly Newsletter of Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Inc

Christmas Cheer!

Are you looking forward to the Festive Season? Before we are catapulted into celebrations and a new year begins, let's take a moment to look back and reflect on our collective achievements this year.

Back in January a big crane drove into the carpark at the front of the Conservatorium at 6am and lifted a new air-conditioning unit onto the roof. That was exciting to watch and made for a comfortable start to Term 1 teaching. 2011 saw new programs developed - Young Drummers with Peter Skelton and Rock School with Damion Towner. His two rock bands have had a good year performing at the Coffs Harbour Show and 'competing' with neighbouring band from Clarence Valley Conservatorium.

Also performing really well this year has been John Mostyn's Senior Guitar Ensemble. These under 16's were invited to perform at the Sydney Conservatorium Open Day on 2nd April. What a fantastic experience for them! Dean Kim Walker personally greeted and thanked them for travelling such a long way. They were made to feel very special. Many Conservatorium students took part in the Coffs Eisteddfod and won awards, *The Choral C* sang for *Light the Night* for the Leukemia Foundation and *Just Strings* played at the Brayside Pre-School Fair. We also had a great couple of days with ukulele specialist John Chandler and a drum clinic presented by Grant Collins.

Music programs in schools continue to quietly achieve. At Crossmaglen Primary Tracey Burton's keyboard students are featured on their new website and Francis Long was there to help the music flow at the school 75th Anniversary. There was a great buzz of excitement at Mary Help of Christians too (see page 3 for details).

For me the outstanding highlight of the year was the First Birthday Bash – the celebration of our first year of operation in our new and permanent home. It was a fun event with over 200 people arriving throughout the afternoon. Cake, balloons and good music were consumed with gusto. I take this opportunity to sincerely and publicly thank all teachers, students, staff, board members and friends who helped make this day such a success. The outdoor performances inspired me and I am thrilled to announce that there will be a series of free CONcerts next year on our forecourt, featuring our wonderfully talented teacher/performers.

A terrific year over, but lots to look forward to in 2012. Enjoy the Festive Season!

Carol Hellmers - Director

2012 DIARY

SUNDAY SOUNDSCAPES 2pm Jetty Memorial Theatre

Tickets will be on sale from the
Jetty Theatre Box Office
February 2012

**\$8 per person single ticket
or \$30 ticket for all six events**

- 18 March - Sound Labyrinth
- 22 April - Wheelers & Dealers
- 24 June - Sydney Brass
- 19 August - Bandaluzia
- 9 September - Grant Collins
- 14 October - Aurora Guitar Ensemble

**All are must hear events.
Mark the dates in your diary now.**

My time at Grafton Artsfest

A report presented by Aron Oroszvari - a vocal student of Robbie Krupski

MUSICAL QUOTE

"Music is a tonic to the saddened soul"

Robert Burton (1577-1640)

Quite a while back now I was chosen to participate in the Jazz Workshop run by the Grafton Artsfest. Looking back on it I found it to be an invaluable experience, as it educated me to musical styles hidden away from the mainstream of music these days. As a vocalist, for the time I was there, I was tutored by Jackie Cooper (a renowned jazz musician) and collaborated with a group of like-minded vocalists on jazz pieces that we performed in public in Grafton alongside a Big Band.

However, I found working with various other musicians to be the highlight of the workshop, as we were subjected to rigorous time keeping exercises, African dances and all round musical brilliance. All in all I had a fantastic time and only wish that it would have gone on for longer.

Why is Music Education Important?

In early November I attended the Director's Conference for the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums held in Sydney. Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium is a member of this Association, which provides support and advocacy for all seventeen of its members located across the state.

The President of the Association and Committee organised the second day of this conference to be held in a meeting room at Parliament House in Macquarie House. All local members were invited to attend a luncheon, to meet with Directors and hear about our successes and future plans for development. Local member for Coffs Harbour Andrew Fraser MP and Melinda Pavey MLC both attended this function. Melinda even brought a TV film crew with her! Association President, Andrew Snell, gave a short speech in which he included some very **interesting research** as to why music education is important:

- A ten-year study in the USA indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socio-economic background.
- USA researchers also found that children who were falling behind at school in numeracy and literacy had caught up with their peers in reading and were ahead of their classmates in maths after just seven months of music lessons. Their attitude and general behaviour had improved as well.
- The Pittsburgh Pennsylvania School District analysed its dropout rate in terms of student musical experience. Students with no ensemble performance experience had a dropout rate of 7.4 percent. Students with one to two years of ensemble experience had a dropout rate of only 1 percent, and those with three or more years of ensemble experience had a dropout rate of 0 percent.
- A two-year Swiss study involving 1,200 children showed that students involved in a music program were better at languages, learned to read more easily, showed an improved social climate, demonstrated more enjoyment in school, and had a lower stress level than non-music students.

And did you know? In WA, with a population base of 2.3 million – about the same number of people who live in regional NSW – the state government spends \$5.65 per person on instrumental and vocal teaching (this figure excludes classroom music in schools). In NSW the comparative spend is just \$2 per person.

Regional Conservatoriums are unique to NSW. They provide services to both government and non-government schools, run community and early childhood music programs, and present public performances. Regional Conservatoriums play a vital role in bringing about the benefits that a quality music education has been proven to achieve. Here at Coffs Harbour our aim is **to enrich the cultural life of the Coffs Harbour community through the provision of quality music education, accessible to all.**

NAB Schools First Impact Grant

Mary Help of Christians School in Sawtell, together with their community partner Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium, celebrated their National Australia Bank Schools First Impact Award of \$50,000 on 12th October. Sixty Impact Awards were awarded across Australia, only eight in NSW, one of which was awarded to Mary Help of Christians for a project called ***Students and Seniors Sing Out!*** Invited guests, students, parents and staff gathered for the presentation of the cheque by local NAB representatives at a special School Assembly.

Assistant Principal, Mary Walsh, said, "The money will be put to good use with singing tuition, skills development and the purchase of a school bus. Our project entails a whole of school singing program with students reaching out to the aged care sector through regular visits to the Sawtell Catholic Aged Care residences, as well as engaging the residents in the program at school. A pilot program has been running throughout 2011 with great success. Now we can involve all students in the joy of singing".

Principal, Tony Watts commented "We wanted to bring a specialist focus to music that was inclusive of all students, allowed for creative expression, enrichment and extension through our choir program, promoted collaboration and team-work, and which both served the community and raised the profile of the school in the community. We welcome the support of Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium as our community partner."

In addressing the assembled, Director of the Conservatorium Carol Hellmers stated, "Music inspires creativity, self-expression, builds self-esteem and is great for assisting in the development of literacy, numeracy and memory skills. As such, music should be an essential part of every child's education."

The NAB Schools First Awards Program provides the opportunity for schools and community organisations to develop a partnership that will lead to higher student outcomes, making an impact on the community. The Awards Program has been operating for three years. Mary Walsh and Carol Hellmers travelled to Sydney for the State information session and state finals, where one of the eight NSW Impact Award winners received a further \$50,000 for their project.

Below are two speeches made by students at Mary Help of Christians expressing their appreciation for choir teacher and director Susan Pratten, who has been the creative force behind the singing program at Mary Help of Christians.

Vote of thanks by Year 6 student, Lani O'Sullivan, at a school assembly shortly after the 2011 Coffs Harbour City Eisteddfod.

On behalf of all the Choir I'd like to say thank you Sue for the hard work you put into this. Your advice really helped us improve our performance. It is great to have such a wonderful person at our school. Everyone enjoys Choir so much and having Sue teach it makes it even better. When we heard that there was a Choir on we were all so excited and we couldn't wait for it to start. We were also very shy to perform in front of large numbers of people, but Sue helped us to be confident and strong and now we are all so confident and love performing. I'd like to also say thank you Mrs Walsh for bringing Choir into our school and trying her hardest to get this experience in our school.

An address to the whole school assembly by William Butcherine, Year 6.

For those who do not know me I am William Butcherine and I am in the Year 5/6 Choir. Now we have all seen *Australian Idol*, *Australia's Got Talent* and *Battle of the Choirs*. If you like singing then maybe all the singing in the shower has paid off because you can be in the Mary Help of Christians School Choir. The Choir teacher, Sue, is a very nice person and will help you if needed. She chooses good songs for us to sing and some songs need body percussion, which involves hands and legs. Choir is not only for girls but boys too because a choir can't all have high voices but needs some low voices too. We would like to have a boys choir so then we could have some different songs to sing. It would be good to see new faces in the Choir and meet some new people. I would like you all to have a think about Choir because it might just be the thing for you.

**Coffs Harbour
Regional
Conservatorium Inc**

Bray Street Complex
Cnr Bray St and Pacific Hwy

Tel: 6652 1592
Fax: 6652 7664
Email: info@coffscon.org.au
Website: www.coffscon.org.au

**2011
MUSIC STAFF**

**ACOUSTIC & ELECTRIC
GUITAR**

Karin Braidwood
John Mostyn
David Strauss
Damion Towner
Mitch Young

BASS GUITAR

David Strauss
Damion Towner

DRUMS & PERCUSSION

Peter Skelton
Phill Stitt

SAXOPHONE/CLARINET

Chris Frater

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Tracey Burton
Ellie Hallett
Heather Rose

STRINGS

Barbara Crosbie

FLUTE

Francis Long

BRASS

Darrell Hodges

VOICE

Margaret England
Robbie Krupski

**SOUNDS FINE CHOIR
THE CHORAL C**

Susan Pratten

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC
& KEYBOARD GROUP**

Tracey Burton

YOUNG DRUMMERS

Peter Skelton

**RECORDING & SOUND
DESIGN COURSE
SONGWRITERS COURSE**

Martin van Veluwen

2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

November 13th, Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium held its annual Scholarship Auditions. A record number of young musicians made application, especially on piano – 28 applied for the Junior Scholarships and 20 for the Senior Scholarships. Whilst everyone performed really well, demonstrating commitment and passion for their music making, there can only be a few “winners” on the day. Congratulations go to:

Junior Scholarships

Christopher Petersen, Maya Hallawell, Kristin Godfrey - piano
Phillip Ranieri - singing
My-Anh Holland - saxophone
My-Lan Holland - double bass
Nathan Wendt - trombone
Floyd Quinlan-Baskett - guitar

Highly Commended - Junior

Daniel Petersen, Hunter Bake-Smith, Laysge McKell - piano
Billy Mutton - bass guitar
Adam Shand, Daniel O’Leary - guitar
Georgia Murphy - drums
Ella Smith - singing

Senior Scholarships

Dylan Quinlan-Baskett, James Jeffs - piano
Sean Rudner - classical guitar
Ben Neal - contemporary guitar

Highly Commended - Senior

Tyrone Wills - classical guitar
Sally O’Brien - violin
Jake Millar - guitar

THANK YOU – SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS!

The success of this year has been made possible thanks to the wonderful support of many individuals and supporters. We continue to be indebted to **Barbara Hogbin** for her extraordinary cash donation and to **ETC (Enterprise Training Company)** for their ongoing cash grant, which combined enabled us to purchase and move into our new home in July last year.

Local businesses that have assisted us this year with sponsor packages are:

Lisa Daly – **Design Studio 22**
Todd Crowley – **Mid Coast Printing**
Craig Beattie – **The Independent**
Kylie and Kim – **Focus Magazine**
Paul Kelly – **Coffs Coast Travel**
Chris Verey – **The Book Warehouse**
Kevin and Tim – **Park Beach Music & Hi Fi**

Also providing significant support into our programs were:

Department of Education and Communities
Arts NSW
Jetty Memorial Theatre
Musica Viva Australia Countrywide

Plus there have been many individuals who have made lovely donations!

THANKS for your GENEROSITY - it IS appreciated!
