Depending on your tame expert 2010 is either the end of a decade or the beginning of the next one. Regardless, it is a brand new year and a good time to take stock, to consider new beginnings and new resolutions. So welcome to the start of the next chapter of your life in music and welcome to the Northern Rivers Conservatorium for 2010.

If you are a returning student or parent then it’s great to have you back to continue your adventures in music. We hope we are continuing to do the right thing by you in providing a satisfying service. To all new students and parents, welcome into our fold. We always do our best to provide expert tuition and a pleasant experience in coming here. If you have any complaints or recommendations as to how we might improve our services then I hope you will let us know. We are great believers in the maxim: Praise and applause keep you going, but it’s your critics that keep you honest.

The same wisdom might usefully be applied to your practice and performance of music. Our end of term concerts have become very popular as a venue for our students to get up in front of an appreciative and supportive audience and to showcase their improvement in skills. They are always fun occasions, and you can be assured of the praise and applause, so if you haven’t attended, come along at the end of second term. In your lessons your teachers are no doubt playing the critical role of keeping you on track.

You may have also noticed that the Con is holding free Cushion Concerts on the first Sunday of each month in partnership with the City Centre Management of Lismore City Council. You can expect to hear a range of musical styles and at different times you might even catch your teachers playing.

As part of its goal to bring high quality music to Lismore, the Con is presenting a classical concert series with Musica Viva Lismore and a contemporary music series in partnership with NORPA. We are offering family tickets and good discounts to our students and their families and I encourage you to get along and see these performers to inspire you to greater efforts in your own adventures in music.

There’s that word “adventure” again being applied to music, not learning or education or teaching. Why? Because we would like your engagement with music to be an adventure. We’ve all seen the movies. Anything categorized as an adventure film is both challenging as well as fun, surprising and delightful, hard work and rewarding, and it has a happy ending.

The good guys and gals always face a range of tests and experience a range of emotions, but importantly for us and for them, they have to have a goal, something they want to achieve. If they didn’t we wouldn’t stay interested in what they were doing or where they were going because they’d just be wandering about waiting for something to happen. Is this the approach you take to your music?

Here’s our challenge to you. In this year’s adventure in music, what is your goal? What level of skill do you want to achieve? How good do you want to be able to play at one of our concerts in front of your parents and friends?

It helps to have a goal, something you can achieve but that you have to work at. Talk to your teacher about it. We at the Con will support you in every way that we can. In third term we hope to introduce a new approach to music to help you set goals with clear benchmarks so that you can easily tell that you are making progress. Keep a lookout in future newsletters and on our website for details.

Other things to look out for are the concerts. And in April and May you may see that our carpark is being dug up to install a root barrier in order to keep our building safe and stable.

We hope you have fun with us this year and we wish you a great adventure in music in 2010.

JANIS BALODIS
Director
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music course is underway this year with a great new bunch of students.

We’re lucky to have Kristina Olsen back with us teaching performance skills as well as songwriting. We’re also lucky to have DJ and producer Dave Brammah who will be joining Sam Bartlett in the dark arts of teaching music technology.

Matt Hill, Andy Downer, Scott Hills, Julius Hofstetter, Anita Bellman, myself and of course the unstoppable Mark Bromley are also treading the classroom boards this year, doing our best to offer our students a broad, relevant and practical and inspiring learning experience at the Con.

STAFF PROFILES

MARK BROMLEY
B Mus Hons. University of New England, NSW
A.Mus in Guitar Performance
Australian Music Examination Board
Cert IV In Training & Assessment
Lecturer in Theory, Composition and Rhythm Workshop.
Member of world music ensemble “Stipsky”.

IMOGEN WOLF
BA, Murdoch University, WA
Diploma in Contemporary Music,
Diploma of ‘Breathwork’
Cert IV in Workplace Assessment & Training.
Lecturer in Vocals, Sightsinging, Choir Director, solo performer.

GREAT LINEUP OF CONCERTS

This year’s concert series has expanded with NRCAC forming partnerships with Musica Viva and NORPA to bring some fantastic performers to our region. There are family concessions and special ticket prices for NRCAC students. Call 66212266 for more details.

COMING SOON

13+14 April 8pm Star Court Theatre
ZULYA and the Children of the Underground

27 May - 8pm Lismore City Hall
FAMOUS BLUE CHEESE - Monsieur Camembert

11 June - 8pm Star Court Theatre
WAY OUT WEST

18 June - 7.30pm Lismore City Hall
DIVAS OF SONG

July 10th - Byron Community Centre and
July 9th - Lismore City Hall
The Big Band at the End of the Universe

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MONTHLY CUSHION CONCERTS

So far we’ve had 3 concerts this year. The February and March ones were held in the Concert Room due to wet weather. As can be seen from the following lineup of artists performing at these concerts a wide variety of musical styles and genres are covered.

February
Stipsky - gypsy World Music
Different People - popular duo

March
Carmelia MacWilliams Flute Trio - Chamber Music
Shelly Hughes & Dan Brown - Soul, Blues & Jazz
Black Train - old time music from the American Appalachians

April
Simple Folk - Multi instrumental folk music trio
Captain Cod Jazz Trio - cool Jazz

All artists have been enthusiastically received and there are already more great acts signed up for the coming months. So far we have:

May
Mark Bromley & Stephanie Higgs,
Ivy Hekimien, Matt Hill

June
Laura Nobel

Further down the track - Red Belly Black and La Fontanella. We’ll keep you posted as more artists are signed up.

Remember these concerts are held on the first Sunday of each month from 11am until 1.30pm, they are free and everyone is welcome.

FIRST COMMUNITY STUDIES CONCERT FOR THE YEAR

Clarinet student Yasmina Bowden performed with teacher Julius Hofstetter

Cellist, Nina McClure played ‘Gavotte’ by Bach

The hip hop dancers have only been with teacher Tahnee Arnold since the beginning of term 1.
What an exciting start to the year it’s been in the Community Studies Department. We welcome new teachers to our fold of talented and dedicated staff. Tahnee Arnold is a young energetic dancer / singer / actor (a triple threat to those in the biz!) who has taken on our Hip Hop classes. After only 9 weeks together, the hip hop dancers wowed an appreciative audience at the Term 1 Community Studies Concert. Tahnee will be sharing her talent with the lucky children of St Joseph’s, Coraki during term 2 as part of their PE program.

We also welcome Belinda Kelly to the Vocal studio and Ren Waterfall to the Brass studio. Belinda is an experienced teacher and also a passionate singer and songwriter. It’s great to have Ren back on the teaching staff here. He has been playing with our resident Big Band – the Big Band at the End of the Universe and has much knowledge and experience to share with his brass students.

There are some new programs on offer here at the Con in 2010. Julius Hofstetter has started a Youth Jazz Orchestra, which meets here on a Saturday afternoon. Later in the year you will be able to see them perform at our Gala Concert and also at the Lismore Jazz Club. The Choral and the Children’s Choir are going from strength to strength. Wendy Turner is also offering Music Theory Classes on Saturdays. The classes are designed for those preparing for AMEB Theory Exams as well as those who would like to increase their knowledge and understanding.

The Conservatorium is also very pleased to be welcomed back to Bangalow Public School and Byron Community School. Our tutors do a great job and are so impressed by the children and the school communities – it’s a win win! Out and about we have teachers delivering Early Childhood Music Classes in Bangalow, at the Friends Children’s Centre Ballina and Tuntabale Falls Preschool. Our piano teacher, Dan Brown, also travels out to Billen Cliffs Community and teaches piano – the students love Dan and he is quite often treated to muffins, pies and cups of tea.

Congratulations to Hayley Larsen who received an “A Honours” in her Fourth Grade AMEB Singing Examination. We have more students preparing for the exams in Lismore and the Lismore Eisteddfod – we’ll keep you posted as results come in!

The Community Studies Department is proud to offer such varied musical opportunities to members of the Northern Rivers Community and we are proud of all our students and teachers. We have students ranging in age from new babies to septuagenarians and our wonderful teachers are able to cater to their individual musical goals. Here’s to 2010 – have a great year.

ANITA BELLMAN
Head of Community Studies

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### NEW SATURDAY CLASSES

**MUSIC THEORY CLASSES**
**Saturday 24 April - 26 June**
10 one hour sessions
Grades 1 - 4 $10 per class
Higher Grades - $15 per class
Tutor: Wendy Turner

**YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**
Saturdays
Learn improvisation skills along with Jazz & Blues fundamentals
$10 / $8 concession
Julius Hofstetter

Phone: 66212266 or email admin@nrcac.edu.au to enrol