Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our Students, Staff, Families and Community Partners. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2014.

MUSIC - LIFELONG LEARNING

Congratulations and thanks to all the staff, students, family, friends and fans for your support and invaluable contributions during 2013. Throughout the year I do a lot of writing about our beautiful Conservatorium and our wonderful community of teachers and students. In the spirit of lifelong learning such as music provides, I loaded (for the first time) a selection of these writings into “Wordle” a very clever online program that produced this lovely graphic. Says it all really.
The Academy Department has had a year of student achievements and positive growth.

The courses at NRCAC are designed for artists to get a professional head start. The Academy staff are practicing professionals in the music industry as well as educators. So students get exposed to current industry trends and technologies.

The Diploma in Music course develops areas such as theory, audio, business, composition, electronic music production, portfolio and performance. Completing the Diploma successfully also creates a pathway into 2nd year study at Southern Cross University.

The Certificate III in Music develops skills and knowledge in music theory, music technology, songwriting, copyright and performance. Overall the student gains the basics to start their own music career.

With the inclusion of VET Fee Help the Diploma course received an influx of prospective students. The Academy also ran the Certificate III in Music due to increased interest.

This years cohort had many opportunities to perform professionally to the public and industry personal. Some of the notable performances were at Cushion Concert, Open Day, Southern Cross University, Lismore Show and the Lismore City Hall (Academy Showcase).

The ‘Academy Showcase’ was a new enterprise added to the student experience. The inclusion expanded practical experience of coordinating promotion, product, finance, networking and performance. It is a rare opportunity to put into practice business theory learnt in class.

Here students developed multiple skills and career exposure by putting on a high profile event. The public will be able to get a taste on youtube, soundcloud and facebook.

Here at the Academy we are looking forward to having more talented students in 2014.

Next years Diploma course starts on the 4th March. First round auditions have already taken place, second round auditions are scheduled for Monday 3rd February 2014.

https://soundcloud.com/nr-conservatorium

-Alicia Charleston
Head of Academy Music

www.studyassist.gov.au
Music in Schools

The Music in Schools program continues to flourish, with new partnerships underway with Emmanuel Anglican College and Corndale Public School.

Feedback from our 11 partnering schools overwhelmingly praises the excellent standard of our teachers, and this has been evident in student outcomes. Many of our Music in Schools students have enjoyed the opportunity to play for their school communities in end of year performances, impressing their peers and showing their families that quality music education really is a great investment.

Many of our dedicated teachers work together to decide on common repertoire so that students of different instruments can perform together – this kind of experience really solidifies many musical skills such as listening to other musicians, playing in time, and seeing one’s own instrument in the context of an ensemble.

Congratulations to all of our Music in Schools students and their teachers on another great year – as reflected in the end of year progress reports, daily practice really is key to continuing improvement, which enhances confidence, which makes you want to play more and more!

Garage Band

Over 80 students in years 5-8 from The Plateau to the Sea Community of Schools (Wollongbar to Ballina) had hands on experience with Garageband for ipad at a recent enrichment day.

Over the day conservatorium staff presented training in this fun digital composition app to four groups of students, who had workshops in beatboxing, body percussion, and singing. Every student ended up with a four track recording of an original composition, and it was amazing to hear how unique each student’s work was despite all being shown the same basic steps.

Classroom teachers commented what a quiet session the garageband workshop was, as when they weren’t listening to instructions all students were working with headphones!

Spring Gala Concert

A delightful bouquet of offerings was made to the audience of our Spring Gala Concert at the Lismore Workers Club in September.

From Early Childhood Music and Pre-Instrumental students (super cute, and with a well rehearsed bow), to a Community Orchestra incorporating Little Strings, participants from our July Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra, and nine members of staff, and some of our Eisteddfod winners, there was a great range of music on stage, with over 100 performers.

A dedicated mosh pit of young audience members proved that anything from Youth Jazz Orchestra’s Cha Cha Cha to the Vocal Department’s rendition of “Over the Rainbow” can be danced to if you let your body feel the music!

We thank the Workers Club for their generous donation of the use of the auditorium, as this is the concert of the year that people of all mobility can access easily.

Next year’s Spring Gala won’t clash with the eisteddfod, and is scheduled for Saturday the 13th of September.

Honour Roll

Congratulations go to all teachers and students who have worked hard to attain excellent results, as recognized by external adjudicators and examiners.

The full Honour Roll is displayed on Page 5.

-Zoe Abbott
Head of Community Music
ARTS NSW PROJECTS IN 2014

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is presenting an array of special projects, workshops and concerts thanks to funding through Arts NSW.

CATCH THE VIBE CONCERT SERIES

Paul Grabovsky is renowned internationally as an Australian premier composer, pianist, performer and educator. Stubbs, Grabowsky, Barker & Hirst are virtuosi jazz musicians with national and international careers and reputations. Great players in their own right; together an explosive combo. They will play a concert and run a workshop in jazz improvisation in Lismore, and a concert in Grafton at the Cathedral. Dates: 4th & 5th April

CHORALFEST NORTHERN RIVERS

In 2014, the Northern Rivers Conservatorium will present the fourth annual Choralfest in the fresh new performance spaces of the newly renovated Lismore City Hall.

Following the incredible popularity of their 2013 visit, the Aria award winning The Idea of North return in 2014 with another beautiful concert AND open workshop for all singers. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Registration for Community Choir performances and participation in the Big Sing will open early in the new year. We will be welcoming new presenters to the program of workshops - there really will be something for everyone.

Dates: 7th & 8th June

BUNDJALUNG NGHARI - THE GATHERING

We are proud to be partnering with NORPA on part of the Creative Development phase of this exciting project. The funding secured through Arts NSW will commission composer David Page (Bangarra Dance Theatre) to write an original score for this locally devised original work.

David will also work with Conservatorium students throughout this creative phase on their original compositions.
The Sydney Symphony Orchestra Playerlink Program has been running for 19 years giving young musicians in Regional NSW the opportunity to learn and play alongside principal players from the SSO. 2013 was Lismore’s lucky year!!

Each year, a group of Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians travels to a regional centre to work with and mentor a specially formed youth orchestra. This pop-up music camp provides a unique opportunity for young musicians to learn from some of the best in the business and an opportunity for the SSO to support the orchestral and instrumental ensemble programs run by the regional conservatoriums.

At Playerlink, students participate in instrumental section tutorials where they study orchestral parts focusing on aspects of musicianship such as posture, intonation, articulation, ensemble playing and interpretation. The students and SSO musicians then come together to rehearse as a whole orchestra, finishing the weekend with a free family presentation-workshop.

Over the weekend of 13-15 September, more than 65 young musicians and 17 SSO players descended on the Conservatorium with only one thing on their mind - MUSIC. Our Concert Room was filled to capacity - and that was just the Orchestra! Some of the young players travelled as far as Albury for the weekend, such is value of the experience of Playerlink.

The event began with a special workshop for young violin and string ensemble students with Jennifer Hoy, First Violin.

As well as tutti and sectional rehearsals, Conservatorium teachers and more from across the region participated in a Conducting Workshop with SSO Conductor Dan Carter. Being based in a regional centre, the participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with a musician of Dan’s calibre.

The Finale Concert held at Richmond River High School drew a capacity crowd of families, friends, fans and the wider community.

Program:
ABBOTT, Katy – Fast Ride in a Suave Machine (Australian)
HORNER – Lord of the Rings (arr. John Whitney)
COPLAND – An Outdoor Overture
TCHAIKOVSKY – Marche Slave
PROKOFIEV - Lieutenant Kije Suite
– Movement II: Romance & Movement IV: Troika

These young musicians all attended the North Coast Regional Music Camp run through the Conservatorium in May and met up again at the SSO Playerlink weekend in September.

Above: young Olive O’Reilly attended a workshop for junior strings players with Jennifer Hoy

Left: Final tutti before the Finale Concert at Richmond River High School.
EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC

Rochelle Wright, our ECM Coordinator has a very busy time running classes for little ones, devising Professional Development workshops AND performing as “Sunshine” from the popular children’s music trio The Curly Cousins.

Here is what has been happening this year in our early childhood music program, and what we offer musically for little people and teachers of little people around the Northern Rivers.

MULLUMBIMBY
This year we have expanded our early childhood music classes to Mullumbimby. We now have a beautiful and thriving group each Monday at 9.30am at the Pioneer Hall in Gordon Street, run by Rochelle Wright.

BANGALOW
We welcome back Emma Hamilton (early childhood music and theatre teacher) who has returned to the Byron Shire from Sydney. Emma used to teach and coordinate ECM here six years ago, and it is great to have her back on board and running two lovely groups in Bangalow each Wednesday mornings (9.30 and 10.30am Anglican Church Hall, Ashton St).

LISMORE
Our Tuesday classes in Lismore are small at present and we would love to see them grow, so we can continue to offer classes to two age groups (1-3yrs and 3-5yrs) Please tell your friends!!!

PRE-SCHOOLS
We have other excellent ECM teachers Felicity Clifton (Kodaly trained ECM teacher and choir leader) and Mandy Morris (The Curly Cousins/Sing by the sea) looking after music in Preschools in the Lismore, Byron and Mullumbimby area’s. They have run multiple sessions this year at Clunes and Lismore Preschool/Kindergarten.

If your preschool or playgroup needs some fresh songs or musical games, why not book in some sessions with us!

NEW COURSES FOR TEACHERS
This year at the Conservatorium, we have expanded our Early Childhood Music program to offer practical based professional development music workshops for Preschool teachers, Day carers, and Stage one (Kinder-Year 2) Primary school teachers. Presented by ECM/voice teachers and educators Felicity Clifton (BA Cont.Mus, Grad Dip Ed) and Rochelle Wright (BA Cont. Mus)

Both teachers have a wealth of experience in early childhood music education.

These certificate courses were held in February and May for Preschool teachers, followed by a Primary school teachers course in September. All courses were very well attended and enthusiastically received.

WORKSHOP FOCUS
Each 3hr workshop presented information about the importance and benefits of music in the developing child, as well as a large component being practical based.

Participants learnt age appropriate songs, rhythms and actions as well as musical concepts and fun games to take back to their school, with guidance on how to teach them to children.
EXCELLENT SNIPPETS

Youth Concert & Masterclass
Held in November at the Byron Community Centre the youth concert presented the best musicians chosen by teachers from all around the area. It was mostly for pianists as the centre is raising money to refurbish their grand piano. Our Conservatorium was well represented by Georgia Coles, Hannah Graham, (both piano solos), Mercedes Ensbey who played a piano duet and Bodhi Scott-Jones who played trumpet in a duet. All performed extremely well.

An inspiring recital by Gerard Willems followed and finally a master class with four pianists. In the master class Gerard Willems discussed how to play slurs correctly, how to obtain a balance between the hands, how to play chords forte with the right arm action and how to round off cadences musically. When it was Georgia’s turn he requested one bar be louder because it is the climax of the passage and that was all he could find to improve her playing!

Well done to our students. We are very proud of you. The pieces our students played were pieces that they have known for some time and this shows the value in being ready for an important performance or exam well ahead of time. It increases confidence and gives time to really polish the performances.

The pianists are taught by Wendy Turner. Bodhi is in the Youth Jazz Orchestra (Julius Hoffstetter) and is studying Grade 7 Theory with Wendy.

Jane Rutter in Concert
Internationally acclaimed free spirit classical flautist Jane Rutter captures the depth of sensuality with her flute playing. Jane is a household name in Australia who performs and tours extensively worldwide. Renowned for her classical, multi-media and cabaret performances. She is a trailblazer who has taken classical music to places previously unheard of, and paved the way for many. When Jane Rutter plays not only is it beautiful flute playing, but also every person listening feels truly embraced. Her flute declares itself in a sensual, passionate statement; her musical instrument becomes a fully expressive voice.

Jane will perform an intimate concert in the Studio at Lismore City Hall on 25th June.

Indigenous Student Scholarships
The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is to be the recipient of a grant through the Northern Rivers Community Foundation in 2014.

We are excited to have received this grant which will be used to fund two full year scholarships for Indigenous students in the Community Music Program.

One male and one female Indigenous student will receive individual weekly lessons in the instrument of their choice.

Community consultation is underway to ensure this initiative lays a strong foundation for furthering inclusivity at the Conservatorium.

Past students of NRCAC including Sarah Supafresh Bennett and Tom Avery aka Blakboi have proudly performed in NAIDOC week Cushion Concerts hosted by the Conservatorium. Local Indigenous singer songwriter Kerrianne Cox has shared her craft and experience with Diploma students, and the Conservatorium is also a proud partner in “Bundjalung Nghari - The Gathering” in association with NORPA. It is hoped that this scholarship opportunity serves to welcome more Indigenous students and their families to the Conservatorium.

Thanks to the NCRF for the opportunity to take this step.

Supafresh are: Sarah Supafresh Bennett, Blake Teddy Rhodes and Mitch King.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATORIUM STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE LISMORE CITY EISTEDDFOD AND AMEB MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

101ST LISMORE MUSICAL FESTIVAL SOCIETY EISTEDDFOD SEPTEMBER 2013
Tilly – Clarinet, Piano, Cello, Violin (Julius Hofstetter, Wendy Turner)
Tilly was awarded “The Most Effort of ALL Instrumentalists”
1st Place Novice Woodwind Solo (Clarinet)
1st for Woodwind Composition (Clarinet)
1st Place Piano Sonatina Movement 11 years & under
2nd Place Piano Solo Open age Section
1st Place Piano Composition
3rd Place Piano grade 3
Honourable Mention 20th Century Piano Piece 11 years & under
1st Place Cello Solo 10 -11 years
1st Place Violin Solo 10 – 11 years
1st Place Violin Jazz Solo 10 – 11 years
1st Place Violin Composition
Jemima Drews – Flute (Lynne Compton)
1st Place – Senior Woodwind Championship Open
1st Place – Teenage Woodwind Championship 16 years & under
1st Place – Flute Solo 14-16 years
1st Place – Woodwind Jazz/Popular 14-16 years
Reuben Flower – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
1st Place Junior Piano Championship
2nd Place Piano Solo Sonatina Movement 11 years & under
2nd Place Piano Solo 12-13 years
3rd Place Piano Solo Baroque 12-13 years
Mercedes Ensbey - Piano (Wendy Turner)
1st Place Romantic Solo 14 years & under
1st Place Piano Duet
1st Place 20th century Solo 12-13 years
1st Place Piano Solo 12 -13 years
1st Place Sonata Movement 12 -13 years
2nd Place Piano Solo Baroque 12 -13 years
3rd Place Music from Film
Lizzie Wignell – Piano, Voice (Wendy Turner)
3rd Place Novice Piano Solo 8 years & under
2nd Place Vocal 7 years & under
Lilly Kinkaid – Violin (Wendy Turner)
Honourable Mention Violin Solo 9 years & under
Mia Welman – Violin (Wendy Turner)
3rd Place Violin Solo 9 years & under
3rd Place Violin Composition
Hannah Graham – Piano (Wendy Turner)
1st Place 20th century Solo Open age Section
2nd Place Senior Championship
3rd Place Grade 7/8 set piece
Luke Graham – Piano (Wendy Turner)
2nd Place Piano Solo 10-11 years
Honourable Mention Piano Memory Test 12 years & under
2nd Place Violin Solo 10 and under
2nd Place Violin Composition
Honourable Mention Violin Solo 10 -11 years
Georgia Coles – Piano (Wendy Turner)
1st Place Romantic Solo 15 years and under
2nd Place Sonata Movement 14 -15 years
3rd Place 20th century Solo 15 years & under
Riley O’Shannessy – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
1st Place Piano Solo Set Piece 5th/6th Grade
2nd Place Piano Solo Romantic 14 years & under
Grace O’Shannessy – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
1st Place Piano Solo 20th/21st Century 11 years & under
2nd Place Piano Solo Sonatina Movement 11 years & under
High Merit Piano Solo Set Piece 3rd Grade
Saffron Geyle – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
3rd Place Piano Solo Sonatina Movement 11 years & under
Hazel Carson – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
High Merit Piano Solo Memory Test 12 years & under
High Merit Piano Solo Jazz/Popular 12 years & under
Benjamin Blackburn – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
2nd Place Piano Solo Set Piece Preliminary
Ryan Blackburn – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
High Merit Piano Solo Novice 8 years
Olivia Flower – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
3rd Place Piano Solo Set Piece Preliminary
3rd Place Piano Solo Novice 9-10 years
Sriya Vure – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
High Merit Piano Solo 9-10 years
Ayla Hansen – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
3rd Place Piano Solo Novice 9-10 years
Angus Parker – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
3rd Place Piano Solo Novice 9-10 years
Lillian McErlean – Piano (Fiona Kerr)
2nd Place Piano Solo Novice 11-12 years
Morgan Gao – Piano (Lynne Compton)
1st Place – Novice Piano Solo 8 years & under
3rd Place – Piano Solo 9 years & under
David Lee – Piano (Lynne Compton)
2nd Place - Novice Piano Solo 8 years & under
Ares McBurney – Piano (Lynne Compton)
2nd Place - Original Piano Composition, 12 years & under
Liam Baillie – Violin (Fleur St Vincent Welch)
2nd Place Duet
Honourable Mention Violin Solo 10 -11 years
Honourable Mention String Solo Jazz
Jarrah King - Violin (Fleur St Vincent Welch)
Honourable Mention Solo 9 and under
Eloise Thomson – Violin (Fleur St Vincent Welch)
1st Contemporary Solo
1st Traditional Solo 10 – 11 years
2nd Place Duet
3rd Place Violin Solo 10 -11 years
Alesi Mason – Violin (Fleur St Vincent Welch)
1st Place Duet 9 years & under
1st Place Solo with Other Instrument Accompaniment
1st Place Contemporary Solo
1st Place Novice Solo 9 years & under
Children’s Choir (Meghan Thamm)
3rd Place Children’s Choir
2013 AMEB EXAMINATIONS
Tilly (Wendy Turner, Julius Hofstetter)
2nd Grade Theory Honours
Preliminary Clarinet A+
2nd Grade Violin A
2nd Grade Cello B+
3rd Grade Piano A+
Victor Lees (Julius Hofstetter)
6th Grade Alto Saxophone B
Taleigha Llevot (Julius Hofstetter)
1st Grade Tenor Saxophone A
Mercedes Ensbey (Wendy Turner)
5th Grade Piano
Bodhi Scott-Jones (Wendy Turner)
5th Grade Theory
Hannah Graham (Wendy Turner)
7th Grade Piano
3rd Grade Theory Honours
Luke Graham (Wendy Turner)
1st Grade Violin A
1st Grade Theory Honours
2nd Grade Piano Credit
Tahila McDonald (Anita Bellman)
4th Grade Singing for Leisure A
Mykaela Baillie (Anita Bellman)
2nd Grade Singing for Leisure B
Sriya Vure (Fiona Kerr)
Preliminary Piano
Laura O’Shannessy (Fiona Kerr)
Preliminary Piano Honours
Olivia Flower (Fiona Kerr)
Preliminary Piano High Distinction
Ayla Hansen (Fiona Kerr)
1st Grade Piano Honours
Grace O’Shannessy (Fiona Kerr)
2nd Grade Piano Honours
Reuben Flower (Fiona Kerr)
5th Grade Piano High Distinction
Emmaline Clarke (Fiona Kerr)
5th Grade Piano for Leisure Honours

Northern Rivers Conservatorium Arts Centre, Connect Newsletter - December 2013
PHOTO BOOTH


Bruce & Lisa McNicol enjoy a tender moment after Bruce’s Farewell Lismore Concert.

Academy Students are all smiles after their Ensemble Exams.

Heidi Chappelow on Open Day.

Youth Jazz Orchestra - Open Day.

Pirates play at Spring Gala.
We’ve got a great year in store for you - here are some dates for your diary:

**2014 Events**

**CLASSES RESUME**
Wednesday 29th January
Community Music programs recommence on site. We look forward to seeing you again in 2013.

**DIPLOMA AUDITIONS**
3rd February
The final round of auditions for the 2014 Diploma of Music will be held early February. To book, please phone the Conservatorium.

**DIPLOMA OF MUSIC**
3rd March
Classes commence in our new Diploma of Music with students receiving VET Fee-Help. Audition rounds will be held in January and February. After the success of the Academy Showcase in 2013, we are looking forward to another great year in 2014.

**PAUL GRABOVSKY VISIT**
4th - 5th April
Stubbs, Grabowsky, Barker & Hirst are virtuosi jazz musicians with national and international careers and reputations. They will play a concert and run a workshop in Lismore, and a concert in Grafton at the Cathedral.

**NORTH COAST MUSIC CAMP**
3rd - 6th May
Held at Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre for DEC High School Students from Newcastle to the border, 3 day residential camp with workshops, rehearsals and sectional tutorials culminating in a grand finale concert for parents & friends on the last evening.

**NICK PARNEWL - VIBES VIRTUOSO**
9th May
Nick Parnell is something of a maverick, being one of the first musicians to bring the vibraphone to the attention of the classical music world. Parnell’s passion is to break down perceptions of elitism of classical music and make it available for everyone to enjoy. Nick Parnell will play a concert and run a workshop in Lismore.

**OPEN DAY**
24th May
We will open the doors of our beautiful building to the community. On offer will be concerts, workshops and open classes.

**CHORALFEST**
7th - 8th June
Making use of the newly refurbished Lismore City Hall, Community Choirs and lovers of Choral Music will converge for a weekend of workshops and performances. “The Idea of North” will headline the festival presenting an open workshop and twilight concert on the Saturday.

**JANE RUTTER**
26th June
Internationally acclaimed free spirit classical flautist Jane Rutter captures the depth of sensuality with her flute playing. When Jane Rutter plays not only is it beautiful flute playing, but also every person listening feels truly embraced. Jane will play an intimate concert in the City Hall Studio as part of her east coast tour.

**NORTHERN RIVERS YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2014**
8th - 10th July
After the over-whelming success of the 2012 & 2013 NRYO we’re going to do it again in 2014. All young musicians are welcome to join us for 3 days of workshops and rehearsals with a public concert at Southern Cross University Whitebrook Theatre to close the event.

**CERTIFICATE III IN MUSIC**
28th July
First day of classes in the 2014 Certificate III in Music. Stay posted for audition dates.

**SPRING GALA CONCERT**
13th September
Held at the Lismore Workers’ Club this Concert will showcase the talents of our students and their ensemble work. Our Community Music cohort of students ranges in age from the very young to the very young at heart and the Gala Concert is always a beautiful sharing of community spirit and some mighty fine music!!

**MUSIC MARATHON**
1st November
After the resounding success of the inaugural Music Marathon in 2013 we’re going to do it all again next year. The Conservatorium will present 12 hours of non-stop music from 9am-9pm as a fundraiser for our Raise the Roof campaign for the TLC of our beautiful building. Students and teachers will be sponsored for every minute of music they perform. Our goal is $10,000!

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE - FEES IN 2014**
Fees for individual tuition will increase to $28.00 per half hour.
The discount for paying tuition a term in advance will only be available for the first two weeks of each term from 2014. Please note this discount applies only to onsite Community Music programs.

**Students whose accounts have balances outstanding will NOT be eligible to re-enrol in 2014.**
We ask that all fees be brought up to date by Friday 10th January 2014 unless a signed and agreed payment arrangement is in place.

Board of Directors
Don Burgess — Chair
Peter Hughes — Treasurer
Julius Hofstetter — Staff Representative
George Thompson, Art Beavis, Matt Hill, Brendan Ware, Melissa Hughes

We are grateful to our Volunteer Board of Directors who give freely and generously of their time throughout the year to oversee the successful running of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium.

**OUR DOORS OPEN AGAIN ON 20th JANUARY 2014**
**CONTACT US ON 02 6621 2266 OR admin@nrac.edu.au**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**
We keep a very active and up to date Facebook Page with lots of information about our events, achievements, news as well as interesting links and music.

https://www.facebook.com/northernrivers.conservatorium