Welcome to all our new students and families and welcome back to all those who have been part of the Conservatorium community for some time. The Northern Rivers Conservatorium occupies a physical place in a heritage building in the heart of the Lismore CBD. This building has been in educational use for more than 100 years affording us a place in the history of our community and the generations of families who have a connection to our site. We know first hand that we hold a place in people’s hearts. The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is also a place to belong, a place to find one’s place in the world, and where you can take your place in a musical community.

This is your place and we value your input, opinions and feedback - without you there would be no ‘us’. We also welcome volunteer contributions at our big events and also behind the scenes - if this sounds like you, please be bold and step forward. We have an action-packed year ahead and look forward to sharing all the inspiring performances, student successes and more with you all.

- Anita Bellman
Executive Director
It has been a great start to the semester with a full cohort of talented Diploma students. Many of these students are graduates from the Certificate III in 2013 and have their sights set on University to develop their professional careers.

The Diploma course of 2014 has many new initiatives such as keyboard studies and a variety of ensemble opportunities from guitar ensemble to piano bar to instrumental and original collaborations.

We welcome new teaching staff member Philippe Chambin this semester for Electronic Music Production. He brings a great deal of expertise from teaching at SAE and SCU as well as being a freelance audio producer and owner of BOING BOOM TSCHANK.

Congratulations again to the students of 2013 who attended their graduation and received their Diploma, Certificate or Statement of Attainment. Chasing a dream requires effort and passion and these students certainly worked hard to kick start their journey into the professional music industry.

Two students made fantastic speeches at the Graduation ceremony. Sarah Daly who graduated with a Certificate III in Music said:

“It was always apparent that each and everyone of our teachers had our back. Asking for help was never a problem. It was obvious that all the teachers held high expectations for each of their students. There was the presumption that every student in the room could and would do it! We just had to stay in that room and step by step, one challenge at a time, everything would be met.”

Nicole McWalters who graduated the Diploma in Music and is now studying a BMus through Southern Cross University as part of our articulation agreement offered:

“If we get to take away one thing from this course then it is our enduring love for music. Music breaks bounds, opens doors to friendships and opportunities and also allows us to express ourselves in ways that words sometimes cannot.”

www.studyassist.gov.au

-Alicia Charleston
Head of Music Academy
CONCERTS

Our new concert format, with concerts in weeks 3, 6, and 9 has been very popular. With more concerts across a range of days, students have more opportunities to perform and to support their fellow students as audience members.

So far this year’s concerts have all seen seasoned performers share the stage with students making their concert debut, and it is this range of age, experience, and ability that makes the Community Music program so valuable – it really is for everyone.

The concerts go for less than an hour, and it has been wonderful to see families mingling and getting to know one another before and after concerts – the Northern Rivers Conservatorium is your place in music after all!

2014 Concert dates are in your practice diaries and on the red posters and flyers around the building. Next Concert date: Thurs 15 May Week 3

NORTHERN RIVERS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Yes it’s on again! For the third year running, the Conservatorium will be hive of orchestral activity during the second week of the July school holidays. From Tues 8 to Thurs 10, 60 students aged 7-21 will have the opportunity to enjoy the social and technical rewards of being part of an orchestra under the expert guidance of sectional tutors, with Lynne Compton returning as Musical Director. We will be joined once again by buddies from the Sydney Con tertiary program, and of course the cherry on top will be the grand public concert showcasing a wide variety of tunes. Last year one mother said her children progressed as much in the three days as they normally would in three months! Another student was encouraged by his teacher to go up a grade in his AMEB exam once his teacher had heard how well he was playing after being part of NRYO. Registrations are open at www.enrol.nrcac.edu.au until 26 May. Apply early to get your parts and start practicing with your teacher!

AMEB & EISTEDDFODS

Would you like some feedback from an industry professional who isn’t your own teacher or your grandma? Exams and eisteddfods are a great way to set goals for yourself on your musical journey, and to get useful tips on how to improve your playing.

NSW exam applications are closed, but we are so close to the Gold Coast, and those applications are still open. Talk to your teacher if you would like to do an exam.

The Lismore Musical Festival (Eisteddfod) is in its 102nd year, and is a wonderful way to see other musicians perform and gain performance experience and maybe even win a trophy for your courageous efforts.

The Eisteddfod is from 31 August – 6 September. Entry forms will be available at reception or from your teacher as soon as they are available.

-Zoe Abbott
Head of Community Music
It is a credit to our extremely talented, dedicated, and personable tutors that the Music in Schools program has a great reputation, which has meant that more and more schools want to be a part of it.

This term we have enjoyed getting to know our new students at Byron Bay Public school where we have teachers every day of the week (with three teachers there twice a week!) teaching students their instruments to play in the school band, which is being led by our Brass teacher Ben van Kleef.

Corndale school is lucky enough to have Andy Jans-Brown teaching piano and guitar to more than 20 of their students.

At Coorabell, Danielle Scampoli is teaching piano and guitar in small groups, who all get together for a band session with her as well.

At Ocean Shores school every student in stage 1 (Kindergarten to year 2) is enjoying specialised Music Education in their class groups with our Early Childhood Music co-coordinator Rochelle Wright.

This is all in addition to the numerous individual lessons and bands we already have running in ten other schools!

The best thing about the continuing growth of our Music in Schools program is that it means more students in our region are accessing quality music education. With proven links to stronger outcomes across all subject areas, benefits to mental health, an appreciation for the value of sustained effort, and connection to creativity, Music is an excellent way to support children to have a good start in life.

- Zoe Abbott  
  Head of Community Music

As well as expert individual tuition, the Community Music Program supports a wide range of Ensembles for our students to deepen their musicianship. Playing in a group not only helps to improve technical skills including sight reading, listening and timing, but it is also a great way to experience your instrument in the context of a band or ensemble, and to have fun whilst making friends with other musicians. Here are the details of just some of our ensembles:

**Rock On with Yvonne Dengate, Thursdays 4:45-6:00**
For upper primary to junior high aged students who want to play Rock Music. These guys opened our week 6 concert with The White Stripes hit Seven Nation Army, leaving the audience stunned. There is currently room in the band for a bass player, vocalist, and keyboard player, so if Rock is a genre you’d like to explore with other musicians and an excellent teacher, Rock On with Von!

**Youth Guitar Ensemble with Ryan Enns, Wednesdays 5:15-6:00**
For mid-primary to senior high aged guitarists of all abilities.
Expand your repertoire and experience the joy of creating music with other guitar players under the expert tuition of Ryan Enns, famous for his excellent ability to arrange tunes to showcase the unique talents of each individual member of the group.

**Young Strings Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 with Heidi Chappelow**
For upper primary to high school aged students of violin, viola, and cello.
Enjoy playing a wide range of beautiful and fun music with Heidi, who is a member of Deep Blue Orchestra and knows lots of great games to keep brains and fingers working well!

**Little Strings Thursday 5:00-5:45 with Heidi Chappelow**
For mid primary students of violin, viola, and cello. A great introduction to being in a string ensemble, Little Strings will help to develop your ear for great intonation, and is an excellent way to get better at playing your instrument whilst having fun with other students around your age, with Heidi as your teacher.
ARTS NSW PROJECTS IN 2014

NICK PARNELL
Vibes Virtuoso
Concert 7:30pm
Workshop 4:00pm
Lismore City Hall
May 9, 2014

Nick Parnell is one of the first musicians to bring the vibraphone to the attention of the classical music world, and despite his humble beginnings in the outback South Australian town of Orroroo he has played the world’s greatest Arts Festivals with the best international ensembles. His ongoing ambition is to break down the elitism of classical music and make it available for everyone to enjoy. Accompanied by acclaimed pianist Micael Ierace, Nick will present a dynamic performance and workshop which is a must for local pianists and percussionists.

7 - 8 JUNE

In 2014, the Northern Rivers Conservatorium will present the fourth annual Choralfest in the fresh new performance spaces of the 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.


Bookings: http://www.trybooking.com/ERBN
Saturday Pass $70   Weekend Pass $80   All workshops $25
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.

IN CONCERT Lismore City Hall THURSDAY 26TH JUNE 7:30PM

Throughout 2014 and 2015 NORPA is developing a major new dance theatre work about Bundjalung country. The Gathering aims to share Bundjalung culture and stories, strengthen local pride, and build the community’s national profile.

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.

Staff and students of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium will have the opportunity to meet with David. He will speak about how he became the composer for Bangarra Dance Theatre and other major events. He will also share how approaches and develops a dance music project and how he established and maintains a unique music style.

A MEETING WITH DAVID PAGE
Thursday 15th May 2 - 4pm
Open to Staff & Students

JANE RUTTER
French Kiss

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.
Our “Catch the Vibe” concert series brought heavyweights of the Australian Jazz scene Paul Grabowsky, Simon Barker and Brett Hirst to the Northern Rivers to make incredible music with local Jazz hero Ken Stubbs.

Paul Grabowsky and Ken Stubbs have long been admirers of each others music and this event brought them together for the first time. I would wager it won’t be the last.

The Saturday concert at the Christchurch Cathedral in Grafton drew this response from one audience member “An incredible evening of music: exceptional, mesmerising, thank you”. Mother nature provided the perfect setting with a beautiful rainshower for the finale piece “After the Rain” by John Coltrane.

The workshop held at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium welcomed students, teachers and musicians from across the region who were lucky enough to play with the fantastic four. Sunday night at the Lismore City Hall was the culmination of the incredible weekend and proved to be edge of your seat improvisation from the best around!

Ken Stubbs said of the weekend of music shared with Paul Grabowsky, Simon Barker and Brett Hirst. “Standing on stage and just watching these supreme artists improvising was truly one of the great experiences of my life. Their deep artistry of openness, trust, masterful-musical-hearts was profoundly inspiring. Australian improvising musicians embrace and create some of the planet’s deepest and original music. May it continue to move forward to be recognised for its true worth, for inspiring and bringing great music to us all.”

-GRABOWSKY-STUBBS-
-BARKER & HIRST-
We are making some small but exciting changes to our early childhood music program this coming term. We are introducing the ‘Sprouts’, ‘Seedlings’ and ‘Saplings’ groups, and offering more age specific classes for our youngest members of the Conservatorium as they grow into budding musicians!

Our early childhood music class will be now running as two groups: ‘Little Sprouts’ (toddlers/1-2 years) and ‘Big Sprouts’ (pre-schoolers/3-5 years).

Our Tuesday afternoon ‘Transition’ class will now be running as two groups, ‘Seedlings’ and ‘Saplings’.

Our new ‘Seedlings’ group is for 4-5 year olds (Preschool and Kindergarten) each Tuesday afternoon from 3:30-4:15pm with Heidi Chappelow.

Our ‘Saplings’ group is for 6-7 year olds (Stage one primary) group will follow at 4:15-5:00pm with Lynne Compton

These changes allow for more age specific songs and musical activities, are more affordable as the length of class is slightly reduced, and allows for class size to expand. Please contact our Early childhood music coordinator Rochelle Wright for more details email: rochelle.wright@nrcac.edu.au

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**Early Childhood Australia Conference**

On April 5th our ECM teachers Felicity Clifton and Rochelle Wright presented two workshops at the annual Early Childhood Australia Conference for Early childhood educators at Salt-Kingscliff. The workshops titled: ‘Fresh repertoire and fun musical activities’ and ‘Music and movement for the young child’ were enthusiastically received with around 50-60 participants in each workshop from Coffs Harbour to Brisbane.

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**Class times and venues:**

Lismore Conservatorium ECM room - Tuesdays
- ‘Little Sprouts’ 9:30-10:00am with Felicity Clifton
- ‘Big Sprouts’ 10:00-10:45am with Felicity Clifton
- ‘Seedlings’ 3:30-4:15pm with Heidi Chappelow
- ‘Saplings’ 4:15-5:00pm with Lynne Compton

Mullumbimby Pioneer Hall - Mondays (Gordon St Mullumbimby)
- ‘Little Sprouts’ 9:15-9:45am with Rochelle Wright
- ‘Big Sprouts’ 9:45-10:30am with Rochelle Wright

Bangalow RSL Hall - Fridays (Station Street Bangalow)
- Please note our new venue and day
  - ‘Little Sprouts’ 9:30-10:00am with Felicity & Rochelle
  - ‘Big Sprouts’ 10:00-10:45am with Felicity & Rochelle

**PD courses for teachers (Early childhood and Stage One teachers)**

We have expanded our Early Childhood Music program to offer practical based professional development music workshops for early childhood and Stage one (Kinder-Year 2) primary school teachers.

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

Participants learn age appropriate songs, rhythms and actions as well as musical concepts and fun games to take back to their school.

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.

This year we held our early childhood educators workshop in March. The workshop was well attended and enthusiastically received!

Stay tuned for our Stage One workshop to come!
LOGO LAUNCH

We proudly unveiled our beautiful, fresh new logo suite designed by Naomi Hofstetter and officiated by Mayor Jenny Dowell. It was fun AND there was cake ...

It is also a reference to place-building, taking your place in a musical community, and the opportunity to begin your music education at any age.

The vibrant rainbow colour palate in the NRC lettering references the Northern Rivers Community we serve as the Rainbow Region.

The whole design process was very much a team effort with input from students, teachers, administrative staff, Board, friends and fans. Naomi has done an incredible job producing not only the beautiful master logo but an entire suite representing our three main departments of Community Music, Music in Schools and Academy Music as well as Early Childhood Music.

The launch event was a great success. Our amazing Mayor Jenny Dowell officiated the launch with stirring words about the history and importance of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium to our region. Joining our supporters in the celebrations were our youngest Early Childhood Music students and the newest students on their first day of the Diploma of Music 2014. Learners of music bookending the continuum of music education provided by the Northern Rivers Conservatorium.
Thank you to Jodi from the Golden Crust Bakery in Lismore for the delicious Logo Cake.

The guys from LJ Signs in Ballina install our beautiful new sign complete with our beautiful new logo!

Ken Stubbs and Paul Grabowsky in the Grafton Cathedral

Simon Barker, Brett Hirst, Anita Bellman, Ken Stubbs, Paul Grabowsky, Kate Gittins, Julius Hofstetter
EXCELLENT SNIPPETS

Our Teachers Inspire! One young student was encouraged to find out whatever they could about the composer of a new piece she was given to learn. She came to her lesson the following week with this project!

Singing is so good for you. Look at the shiny happy faces of people who sang with the beautiful Gian Slater and Invenio. Melbourne based Gian and Invenio visited the Conservatorium as part of a tour along the east coast. Blissful sound baths, fun improvisation and a performance treat to an exquisite a cappella arrangement of Tom Waits "I don't wanna grow up". Just beautiful.

This term many year seven students in NSW have completed a school project on the theme "All About Me". We were delighted when Tilly showed us her collage featuring the many Conservatorium Ensembles she is a member of and a list of her musical achievements. Great work Tilly!

A little bird tells me the Conservatorium will be unveiling a brand new website!! Keep your eyes peeled for the beautiful work of Ellen Kronen of Leumesin Design at the end of April.
2014 Events

We’ve got a great year in store for you - here are some dates for your diary:

LENNOX HEAD 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.

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.

CERTIFICATE III IN MUSIC
7th July

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.

SPRING GALA CONCERT
14th 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 this 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!

PAYMENT OF FEES - THANK YOU
Thank you for your support by keeping your fees up to date. Term 2 invoicing will be taking place during the school holidays. Remember a 5% discount applies to accounts paid in full within the first two weeks of term.

TERM TWO COMMENCES MONDAY 28TH APRIL
CONTACT US ON 02 6621 2266 OR admin@nrcac.edu.au

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

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.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
We maintain 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