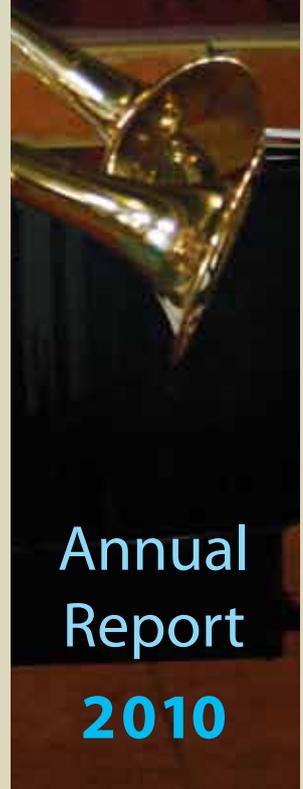


New England
Conservatorium
of Music



Annual
Report
2010



Message from the Chairman

“NECOM’s income exceeded \$1M for the first time in 2010”

2010 was an exciting year for NECOM. In just its 5th year NECOM was ranked in Tier 1 of the five tier ranking system established by the NSW Department of Education and Training. This is a tribute to the staff of the Conservatorium who deliver a diverse program of music education opportunities.

We have seen great progress with the fledgling Inverell Campus starting with a community grant provided from the NSW Government which was used to relocate a teaching facility to our site in Moore Street. This has now been connected to the original Sinclair Place School to give Inverell the capacity to have teaching studios, administration space, rehearsal rooms and concert space in one location. I wish to pay tribute to the Inverell Shire Council for its support of the development of NECOM in Inverell and to The Honorable Dr. Richard Torbay MP for his help with

the community grant and the leasing of the school buildings on favourable terms. Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done to bring all the buildings up to the high standards we require but the Inverell Committee is providing an active volunteer program to achieve that. David and Sarah Matthews have taken up the challenge of developing the Inverell Campus into a vibrant contributor to the Sapphire City’s cultural life.

While on Inverell, I wish to congratulate Peta Blyth on recently staging the 10th Opera in the Paddock. A few showers could not dampen the enthusiasm of the audience who responded warmly to a wonderful program. I was delighted that six members of the Orchestra were from the teaching staff of NECOM.

In Armidale, NECOM offers a wide range of activities including instrument teaching, an early childhood music program, choral programs, schools programs, workshop programs, a year 10 music day, a HSC music workshop, an indigenous music program, SSO Playerlink, an AYO residency program together with development of the Armidale Youth Orchestras, the Armidale Symphony Orchestra and a wide range of concerts.

The concerts given by Konstanin Shamray and Eleanor Streatfield in Inverell, Armidale and Bellingen attracted great interest. Konstantin was winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008.

New England Sings in October attracted 1,000 performers and a combined audience of 1,100 over two concerts. These were just two of many memorable concert series organised by NECOM in 2010.

NECOM’s Director Julie Croft had a busy year with Strategic Planning, infrastructure development and making representations for a range of grants. NECOM’s income exceeded \$1M for the first time in 2010. Julie was on sick leave for some time at the end of 2010 but we were fortunate in having Corinne Arter pick up the reins as Acting Director.

NECOM’s staff work closely with over 60 of NECOM’s music educator members to maximise the influence of the Conservatorium throughout the community.

I wish to thank my fellow Board members who have worked productively on their portfolios including personnel, marketing and finance. Our clients are the key to our business. Thank you for your support. And finally I wish to thank our corporate sponsors including the NSW Department of Education and Training, Arts funding agencies and private sponsors.

We have had a bumper year in 2010 and look forward to even greater achievements in 2011.

**Dr. P.A. Rickards OAM
Chairman**

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Acting Director's Report

2010 has been another year of exceptional growth and expansion for the New England Conservatorium. As the newest Conservatorium in the NSW Regional Conservatoriums program, the growth of NECOM has been unprecedented and the challenge continues to be to maintain growth whilst sustaining the quality of the programs we offer.

A raft of new staff members were welcomed to NECOM which increased our staffing dramatically: Wendy Champion (woodwind), David Matthews (violin and viola) and Sarah Matthews (cello) were employed to work specifically out of the Inverell campus; brass teachers Lisa and Gergely Malyusz were employed to work in Armidale, Inverell and Bellingen; Melodie Glass joined the Mini Minstrels program as Co-ordinator and teacher; Phil Oxley also joined Mini Minstrels as the K-2 teacher; Sara McNeill took over the Minisingers from Belinda Niemeyer; Administrative Assistant Jan Kirk and Finance Officer Heather Maciver took over from Faewyn Goyen. Director Julie Croft took sick leave towards the end of the year and I

was pleased to be able to assist by stepping into the role of Acting Director for the final weeks of 2010.

A number of new and significant programs were established including: the Beginner Brass Program with two ensembles; the Mini Minstrels program which commenced in Walcha under the direction of Belinda Niemeyer; the Seniors Choir led by eminent music educator Wendy Huddleston; the Closing the Music Gap program for Indigenous children which saw the establishment of a Mini Minstrels program at Ross Hill PS and brought well-known Aboriginal musicians Deborah Cheetham, The Stiff Gins and Shellie Morris to work with children in Tingha, Inverell and Armidale; the Breaking the Wind Barrier program which enabled the development of brass and woodwind around the region; the jazz musician-in-residence program which provided jazz pianist Warwick Dunham to work at five participating schools and NECOM for Terms 2 & 3. A new suite of offices was refurbished in the CB Newling Building to provide appropriate accommodation for our expanding office staff. We are grateful to Arts NSW for funding the Closing the Music Gap and Breaking the Wind Barrier programs and to the Fred Potter Charitable Trust for funding the Jazz Musician-in-Residence programs. Without their support, these important programs would not have been possible.

One of the main areas of expansion was at the

Inverell campus. The site at the former Sinclair Place PS has been developed with the aid of a Community Building Partnerships grant. The relocation of a teaching facility to the site has provided the campus with increased accommodation specifically for teaching studios and workshop/rehearsal space. An instrumental tuition program was implemented with the employment of five new teachers in woodwind, brass and strings. A grant from the Inverell Shire Council has supported a Co-ordinator position. Founding Co-ordinator Peta Blyth stepped down from the position in July and we welcomed David and Sarah Matthews into the role. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Peta Blyth to the development of the Inverell campus of NECOM. The community support has been tremendous and this is testament to the connection Peta has with the Inverell community.

One of the highlights of 2010 was unquestionably the New England Sings! project. This was a mass choral/orchestral event held at Lazenby Hall, UNE on the weekend of the 23/24 October and featured 900 students and their teachers from 22 schools across the New England North West region. The project was highly ambitious: two Primary choirs of 250 voices each conducted by Rowena Tall; a secondary choir of 300 voices conducted by George Torbay and a full orchestra made up of the Armidale Youth Orchestra, NECOM teachers and members of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra conducted by

Warwick Dunham. After five months of in-school rehearsals and combined cluster rehearsals, the final weekend dawned and was a blazing success: two sell-out concerts to an audience of over 1100 people.

This report outlines the many achievements of NECOM in 2010. These achievements would not be possible without the quality teaching we enjoy from NECOM instrumental, choral and early childhood staff and the support we receive from the wider NECOM community. NECOM is renowned for providing music education programs of excellence and innovation. Community recognition of these achievements was confirmed in November when NECOM was awarded a Business Award from the Armidale and District Chamber of Commerce for Excellence in Education and Training.

I particularly wish to thank Dr Arthur Rickards for his untiring commitment to NECOM and the vision with which he approaches all areas of his role as Chairman of NECOM. I would also like to thank our major funding bodies including the NSW Department of Education and Communities, Arts NSW, Regional Arts NSW, the Aberaldie Foundation, the Ian Potter Foundation and the Fred Archer Charitable Trust. Without the support of these sponsors, the extensive music education programs provided by NECOM would not be possible.

Corinne Arter - Acting Director

Early Childhood Music

In 2010, a new Co-ordinator, Melodie Glass, was appointed for this program for a six month period. Her mission was to develop a sequential framework for the development of skills and content in the Mini Minstrels program from the Babies classes through to the Year 1/2 classes.

The program continued to expand throughout 2010. Seventeen classes were held each week in Armidale directed by specialist teachers Melodie Glass, Belinda Niemeyer and Phil Oxley. Three classes were held each week in Inverell under the direction of Ros Oliver. In addition, a new Mini Minstrels program was commenced at Ross Hill Public School, Inverell which provided 8 classes per week as part of the Closing the Music Gap Indigenous Music Education program. In Term 4 2010 an outreach program was established and two Mini Minstrels classes commenced in Walcha under the direction of Belinda Niemeyer. This provided a combined infant and toddler class and a family class each Thursday morning.

In Term 3, a Kids Proms concert was held in conjunction with the Armidale Symphony Orchestra (ASO) conducted by Laurie Pulley and assisted by Melodie Glass. This was a wonderful opportunity for children to interact with members of the orchestra and their instruments. Children



experienced first-hand the magic of orchestral music in an interactive environment. The ASO kindly donated funds that were raised from this event to support the development of an early childhood outreach program.

Choral Program

The 2010 Choral program comprised 135 singers in five choirs:

Minisingers (Kindergarten – Year 2) conducted by Rebecca Simon for the first half of the year, and Sara McNeill for the second half and Lou Nano accompanying throughout this time.

Cantilena Singers (Years 3-6) conducted by Rowena Tall and accompanied by Naomi O'Hern.

Cantilena Chorale (Years 5 & 6, by audition) conducted by Rowena Tall and accompanied by Rebecca Simon.

New England Singers (Years 7 – 12 + young adults) conducted by Leanne Roobol and accompanied

by Rebecca Simon.

Seniors' Choir (for seniors who just wanted to sing) conducted by Wendy Huddleston and accompanied by Peter Maddox, was established in the second half of the year.

The experienced and professional staff facilitated an extremely high standard of vocal ensemble work in all choirs. All choirs performed in the Eisteddfod winning much acclaim and some major prizes as well. The August Choral concert involved 4 of the 5 choirs (the Seniors having only just begun), presenting a wide variety of repertoire, accompanied and a capella, and also afforded Nick Kelly (one of the New England Singers) the opportunity of conducting the group.

Cantilena Singers, Cantilena Chorale and New England Singers were provided with the opportunity to perform solo items at the acclaimed New England Sings! concerts at Lazenby Hall in October. The audience was highly impressed with the children's focus,

commitment and the high quality of the choral sound produced in all choirs. Cantilena Singers performed a quirky item, *Beyond the Black Stump*, by contemporary Australian composer Stephen Leek and Cantilena Chorale performed an exquisite four part version of *Sheep May Safely Graze* displaying outstanding intonation. The New England Singers showcased their extraordinary ensemble skills by performing a highly complex a capella version of *Sweet Dreams* with body percussion, conducted by choir member Nick Kelly.

The Seniors Choir commenced rehearsals in Semester 2 and held their first performance in the Uniting Church at the end of November under the direction of eminent musician and educator Wendy Huddleston. The choir prepared a Service of Lessons and Carols and readings were taken by the members of the choir.





“Group lessons are held in a friendly social setting with the children developing long standing friendships as they learn”



The Christmas concert, featuring all of the choirs was an appropriate end to a very successful year for the choral program. The highlight was the combined performance of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer with Cantilena Singers and Minisingers.

Instrumental Tuition

2010 was a year of great expansion in the instrumental tuition program. Woodwind teacher Wendy Champion was employed to work out of the Inverell campus of NECOM. Wendy is a graduate of Sydney Conservatorium and provides lessons in both Inverell and Warialda. In Term 3, brass teachers Lisa and Gergely Malysz relocated from Europe to join the teaching staff, expanding our teaching capacity to include trumpet, trombone, euphonium and French horn and to establish a Beginner Brass program. Lisa and Gergely are both professional French horn players with extensive

teaching experience and provided lessons and ensemble tuition in Armidale, Bellingen and Inverell. In September, David and Sarah Matthews joined the Inverell campus as Co-ordinators and to develop a string program for the Inverell community. By the end of 2010, they had established a significant studio of violin and cello students and were in the process of developing a number of ensembles.

NECOM continued to provide quality instrumental tuition in violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon and oboe to children and adults, with numbers of students reaching 325. The Conservatorium provided teachers of excellence in the following areas: Marian Barford (violin) and April Kelson (violin and viola); Eleanor Streatfeild (cello); Nick Negerevich (wood-wind); Zana Clarke (violin).

The Beginner Strings and Woodwind programs continued to thrive. These programs provide individual tuition, accompaniment lessons, regular ensemble rehearsals and many performance opportunities. Teachers also attend and assist with school performances in which their students participate. Progress of students' individual and ensemble learning is closely monitored and discussed at fortnightly instrumental teachers meetings and any teacher/learning issues are immediately addressed. Teachers maintain close liaison with parents and

school music teachers and contacts and parents receive a comprehensive report on student progress each semester.

Beginner Strings Program

The Beginner String Program continued to grow and flourish through 2010. The program is a core initiative of NECOM, set up in 2005 to provide a sequential program of development for young string players in the New England area.

Students involved in the program in 2010 come from the studios of Marian Barford, April Kelson, and Eleanor Streatfeild. Student numbers have remained remarkably stable over the years with 2010 being no exception. This is due to carefully sequenced individual tuition supplemented with graded ensemble classes. Varied performance opportunities are provided with increasing skill levels evident to all. The group lessons are held in a friendly social setting with the children from many schools attending and developing longstanding friendships as they learn.

The group concerts held in 2010 highlighted increasing skills in the aspects of part work and memorization and more sophisticated repertoire choices. Participants have continued to enjoy their accompaniment lessons with Madeline Lawrence and Rebecca Simon, whose hard work and patience paid off with many capable

(and comfortable) solo performances at the annual eisteddfod held in May. Entries were well ahead of previous years, particularly in the junior levels. Graduates of the Beginner String Program along with current students, performed confidently with excellent stagecraft and results. The adjudicators praised the high standard of competition exhibited this year.

Many children also sat for their first string exam in 2010 with large numbers of candidates enrolling in both the AMEB and Trinity examinations. There were many fine results, which is testament to the dedication and perseverance of all concerned.

The students had a successful year with advances in confidence and capability demonstrated at each performance during the year.

Beginner String Ensembles in 2010:

Super Smart Semibreves (Violins and Cellos)
Cool Crotchets (Violins)
Cool Crotchets (Cellos)
Mini Minims (Violins)
Mini Minims (Cellos).

Beginner Woodwind Program

The Beginner Woodwind Program continued to expand in 2010 with the establishment of a new beginner ensemble. BWP students from 2009 moved up to the Intermediate Woodwind Ensemble and started to play challenging part repertoire. These



ensembles joined the BSP ensembles for the winter program concert in June and produced a polished performance conducted by Nick Negerevich and accompanied by Rebecca Simon.

The annual solo concert was presented in September and over 20 students performed. The success of the accompaniment component of the BWP program was evident in the many polished performances which displayed developing ensemble skills and consideration to balance. Students are given a ½ hour lesson each term with an accompanist and these lessons are specifically designed to develop performance skills.

Students from the three orchestral programs combined for the annual Christmas Concert at the end of November. A variety of repertoire was presented including many Christmas favourites which had been specially arranged for the ensembles and included

a combined item at the conclusion of the concert.

Brass Studio Report

Gergely and Lisa Malyusz relocated from Europe to Armidale in term 3, 2010 in order to commence the establishment and implementation of a Beginner's Brass Program at both NECOM campus' in Armidale and Inverell.

Having only 2 pre-existing enrolments for the program, term 3 and 4 were mainly dedicated to holding educational and interactive demonstrations in schools to expose children to the timbre, mechanics, historical context and ensemble possibilities of all the trumpet, French horn, euphonium and tuba. Within 5 months over 30 such demonstrations were held in 12 primary and secondary schools in both Armidale and Inverell. The results being almost immediately apparent with a steady stream of enrolments for not only the beginner's program

but also the advanced Instrumental Program.

The most popular choice of brass instrument, for both male and female has been the trumpet, followed by the French horn. This led NECOM to the purchase of 8 Yamaha Student Model trumpets, 1 child-size French horn and one single F-horn. Another responsibility of Gergely's and Lisa's was the tutoring of the AYO brass section which has benefitted greatly.

Lisa and Gergely were also invited to take workshops with the community Sapphire City Band, in Inverell (several members of the band are part of the brass studio). The first of hopefully many workshops took place at the end of term 3.

October saw the creation of the Beginner's Brass Ensemble, which was premiered, to great acclaim in NECOM's Christmas concert at the end of November. Term 4 also





“Orchestra members enjoyed the opportunity to be part of a full symphony orchestra performing as part of a mass choral production”



kept Lisa and Gergely busy with the New Sydney Wind Quintet’s visit.

Despite the timing of the visit it turned out to be a highly successful event. Not only Armidale but also Inverell, Guyra and Rocky River were dazzled with masterclasses, workshops and school concerts held by the quintet.

The Studio Christmas concert rounded out the year. All students performed in 2- and 3-part ensembles, as well as short solo pieces demonstrating what can happen when motivation and will are placed in the right environment.

Instrumental Ensembles

The Armidale Youth Orchestra and the Armidale Symphony Orchestra are community-based orchestras with a long history of excellence in fine music. These orchestras amalgamated with NECOM in 2007 and now form the upper tiers of a comprehensive

orchestral training program at the Conservatorium.

The Armidale Youth Orchestras Report

2010 was a year of continued growth for the Armidale Youth Orchestras (AYOs). The strategic relationship with NECOM continues to be very important in supporting the musical development of the Orchestras. Membership numbers increased in the Armidale Youth Orchestra (AYO) to 48 and Armidale Youth String Orchestra (AYSO) to 38. It was decided not to offer the Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble (AYWE) in 2010 due to a limited number of enquiries for this group. Mr Warwick Dunham (AYO) and Ms April Kelson (AYSO) continued in their respective conductor roles providing stability to the organisation.

The year commenced with another wonderful workshop at Sawtell organised by Wendy Huddleston and directed by Mal Hewitt. Over 60 students participated in the AYO and AYSO tutorials and for many new families this weekend signals their commencement of their “Armidale Youth Orchestras” journey.

Performance opportunities for all groups throughout the year included; The annual Garden Party fundraiser at the home of Mrs Rosemary Leitch (raising over \$4000), the Armidale Eisteddfod and the Annual Gala Concert in November.

Both Orchestras performed

to a high standard during the 2010 eisteddfod. The AYO was 1st in the Open Instrumental Group and 1st in Large Instrumental Group event. The AYSO was 3rd in the Large Ensemble on any Bowed Instrument event - against some very advanced and experienced competition.

The AYO had two further performance opportunities in the second half of the year; the Australian and Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) generously sponsored a “Walk thru the Orchestra” event in Inverell at the beginning of term 3. Members of the AYO also participated in the New England Sings weekend at Lazenby Hall. Orchestra members enjoyed the opportunity to be part of a full symphony orchestra performing as part of a mass choral production.

The AGM was again held in October to assist with forward planning for 2011. Cathy Archer took on the role of President, Berenice Scott continued as Secretary and Neil Glenn continued as Treasurer. The hard working conductors, members, life members, NECOM staff and parent committee are to be commended on their efforts in overseeing the continued musical growth of the organisation.

**Suzanne Wright
President, 2010**

Armidale Symphony Orchestra Report

The Armidale Symphony Orchestra completed a very successful 2010.

The Orchestra's first activity for the year was to participate in the Armidale Music Foundation's thirteenth annual choral weekend in a workshop and performance of Mendelssohn's setting of Psalm 42 As Pants the Hart. Rick McIntyre was conductor, with Paul Holley as choral director, and Errol Russell and John Kellaway as string and brass tutors respectively.

Wendy Huddleston conducted the orchestra in the May concert featuring Deidre Rickards performing Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor. The concert opened with Borodin's Overture to Prince Igor and concluded with the little known but delightful Symphony No. 3 in C major (Sinfonie Singulière) by Franz Berwald.

The highlight of the August concert was the return to Armidale of James Maddox to perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 and Brahms' Rhapsody in B minor op 79, No. 1. Also on the program, conducted by Graham Maddox, were Chabrier's Espana and Dvorak's Symphony No. 5.

In September, Laurie Pulley and Melodie Glass, with assistance from NECOM's Mini Minstrels singers, led a youthful audience on a mysterious Bear Hunt in a return of the popular Kid's Proms Concert. All the usual Kid's Proms favourites were on the program including Mendelssohn's Dance of the Clowns, Mozart's Sleigh Ride, and of course I'm a Little Teapot. The ASO was pleased to be able to donate the proceeds of this concert to



support the Mini Minstrels Outreach Program.

The final concert for the year with Fiori Musicali and invited soloists was based on music inspired by the works of William Shakespeare, the Food of Love. The program included Ralph Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music based on Act V, Scene 1 of The Merchant of Venice, William Walton's music for the film of Henry V, featuring narration by Chris Ross-Smith and speeches by Gareth Rickards, and the closing scene from Benjamin Britten's opera A Midsummer Night's Dream. Bruce Menzies was the conductor of this program.

Several members of the orchestra were also involved in the production of UrineTown with Armidale District Music Society.

The planned respringing of the rehearsal room floor took rather longer than expected, but has now been completed and the orchestra looks forward to many years of uninterrupted use of the facility.

David Gee
ASO Representative
NECOM Board

NECOM Youth Sinfonia

The Youth Sinfonia held its showcase concert for 2010 on 13th November in the OTC Auditorium with a smaller number of players than we hoped but they still demonstrated their talents as enthusiastic and capable musicians.

Earlier in the year they were invited to share a concert with Fiori Musicali in the New Arts Theatre at The Armidale School. The Sinfonia performed the Divertimento in B flat by Mozart which was enthusiastically received by the audience. This work enabled the young players to enjoy the playful movements created by a youthful Mozart. The last movement in particular brought smiles from the players at the end, indicating that they were pleased with their performance.

They accompanied

the choir in Mozart's Misericordium and provided the orchestral parts for the Suite in Am for Recorder and Strings by Telemann, performed by Zana Clarke. This was a wonderful opportunity for the players to accompany such an accomplished performer as Zana and to adjust their playing so as to not overpower the recorder sound.

At the Showcase Concert on 13th November the Sinfonia tackled a very difficult programme. Unfortunately we were missing a couple of players but they coped with the increased tension very well. A special mention must be made of Virginia Botha, who as the leader of the group not only urged others but was the only first violin. In this situation it was like performing a full concerto, especially in the Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings. The other works included the Vivaldi Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor (Soloists: Eleanor Streatfeild, Georgina





“Performing with professionals provided an insight into the high standards demanded for a successful performance”



Ostenfeld), Adagio for Strings and Organ in G minor - Albinoni (Organ: Warwick Dunham), Beethoven's String Quartet Op.18 No.2 in G (Violins: Virginia Botha, Jodie Ostenfeld, Viola: Jessica Pearson, Cello: Georgina Ostenfeld).

The Sinfonia found that the performance fulfilled their expectations after having worked on the programme for about six months in total. Performing with experienced professionals provided an insight into the high standards demanded for a successful performance. I was very proud of their achievements and their work ethic demonstrated throughout the year.

Errol Russell
Director

Recorder Ensembles

The two NECOM-affiliated recorder groups Ribatutta and Fontegara directed by Robyn Parker continue to rehearse each Thursday afternoon during term

time. These are extension groups for the advanced students with Ribatutta consisting of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 while Fontegara is for the younger high school age students. Both groups performed at several events at the Armidale eisteddfod as well as at studio concerts. In addition, Ribattuta had two members doing HSC music and so performed at their examination performances. Both groups were lucky enough to have a workshop with international recorder player Amy Power courtesy of their NECOM scholarships.

New England Youth Guitar Ensemble

In 2010 the New England Youth Guitar Ensemble under the direction of Chris Purcell played a total of seven concerts. The first two were studio recitals in conjunction with Chris' other guitar students. These were at end of Terms 2 and 3. Term 4 was a busy time for the boys – two ensemble concerts, busking at Markets in the Mall (twice), and a Saturday morning appearance in K-Mart arcade.

At the Eisteddfod this year the ensemble came second in their category performing December Rain, a beautiful ensemble piece by Australian guitarist/composer Anthony Garcia. This broke their winning streak of taking first place for the previous three years!

Following on from a Beginning Improvisation workshop Chris ran

for the group in 2009, the ensemble featured improvisation in two of their performance pieces this year - St. James' Infirmary Blues and the well-known Malaguena.

Sadly, the ensemble members and Chris decided at the end of 2010 to call it quits after six years of rehearsals, workshops, Eisteddfods, concerts and busking at the markets... The five members of the ensemble in 2010 were all long-term members, all having joined at the group's inception in 2005. Three of the boys have formed their own high school blues/rock band, and the other two have joined their schools jazz/big bands. A big thank you to these young musicians for their hard work and dedication to the ensemble over the last six years – it has been a pleasure watching you grow and develop.

After a brief sojourn in the UK during Term 2 of 2011, Chris Purcell will start a Classical Guitar Quartet when he returns to teaching in Term 3.

Chris Purcell
Director

Curriculum Support for Schools

During 2010 NECOM provided support for school music programs through the following initiatives:

The Armidale Music Teachers Association (AMTA), an organisation comprising secondary music teachers from the Armidale district,

continued in 2010 to promote music education within the region. AMTA is part of NECOM and acts as an advisory group to the Conservatorium in the development and implementation of curriculum support programs (see AMTA report).

AMTA also co-ordinated the Armidale Eisteddfod Composition sections, providing children with an opportunity to receive valuable feedback on original works they had composed as part of classroom music programs. Eminent Australian composer Stephen Leek adjudicated the 120 compositions, and presented a tutorial on compositional skills that enhanced the music curriculum. Many local HSC students used this program to workshop their HSC compositions, an opportunity rarely afforded in other regional areas.

The Primary Armidale Music Teachers Association (PAMTA) is another affiliated organisation of NECOM and also has an advisory role. The Association was formed in 2008 with the aim of supporting local K-6 music teachers. In 2010 PAMTA consisted of twelve primary music teachers and met once per term at various venues. Each meeting had a professional development focus aimed at building the capabilities and confidence of primary educators along with time to discuss current events such as the Armidale Eisteddfod and combined school music concerts. The group was convened by Rowena Tall an experienced Primary music educator



who moved to Armidale in 2008 to take up a position at St. John's Junior School (NEGS). Rowena identified a lack of support and appropriate professional development for local K-6 Music Teachers and PAMTA was subsequently created.

The 2010 Breaking the Wind Barrier program (further details later in this report) introduced children in isolated areas and schools to the woodwind instruments through demonstrations, talks and concerts in their schools and in their towns in order to extend to the wider community as well.

The Closing the Music Gap program for Indigenous students was developed following the successful outcome of a grant application to Arts NSW. A key element of this initiative is the engagement by NECOM of successful key Indigenous performers to work with students and inspire them as role models. In Term 1, Opera singers Deborah Cheetham and Tiriki Onus and accompanist Toni Lalich

conducted workshops with Grade 5 & 6 Aboriginal students at Ross Hill PS which culminated in a public performance on Friday 23rd April. The 'Ross Hill Indigenous Choir' was formed and performed a variety of repertoire. NECOM Inverell woodwind teacher, Wendy Champion was given the opportunity to perform alongside the company. On 24th April, Deborah's concert 'til the Black Lady Sings' was performed in Armidale and included NECOM flute teacher Nick Negerevich.

Singer/songwriter Shellie Morris visited Tingha and Armidale for a series of workshops/performances in early November which included: songwriting workshops with students in Years 3-6 at Tingha PS which culminated in the recording of 4 class songs; a public performance showcasing works by students from Tingha PS and local Aboriginal musicians at the Tingha Club; a workshop performance involving songs and stories for students at Drummong

PS and Newling PS in Armidale; songwriting workshops with Aboriginal students from Duval HS and Armidale HS; a public concert at the Old Teachers College, Armidale featuring Shellie Morris, Duval HS students and local Indigenous band Terra Firma.

A new curriculum support program was initiated at Ross Hill PS, Inverell for Indigenous students. Through this program, all indigenous students received extra music activities. The students, from Grades 1-4, taught by Geoff Croft, learn in groups with their indigenous peers. The Mini Minstrels program, taught by Ros Oliver is delivered to all Kindergarten students. Staff at the school support the program through a desire to improve academic outcomes and improve future prospects for these students. The school has a strong tradition in the performing arts and teachers have noted for some years the strong





“Teachers have noted the strong correlation between academic achievement and student involvement in the Performing Arts”

correlation between academic achievement and student involvement in the Performing Arts. The program supports the belief that as indigenous students become more engaged in learning, self-esteem and attendance will improve and the curriculum will develop a significance which until now it has lacked.

In Term 2, 2010 Jazz pianist Warwick Dunham commenced a 6 month residency at the Conservatorium. This was a collaborative project between NECOM and 5 local schools (PLC, NEGS, TAS, Armidale High & Duval High) that was funded by a significant grant from the Ian Potter Foundation. Warwick spent the equivalent of 1 day a week in each of the schools to support their curriculum as well as hosting jazz jam nights at the Cattleman’s Motel to showcase the results.

In 2010 NECOM provided ensemble support for schools, assisting school groups through the contributions of NECOM

specialist instrumental teachers. Such ensembles included string orchestras, string quartets, cello ensembles, jazz ensembles, wind ensembles and classroom string programs.

Throughout the year, NECOM continued to provide instrumental teaching of an exceptionally high standard within schools. Most of the individual lessons in string and woodwind instruments were held on the school premises within school hours in twenty one schools.

NECOM provided a highly-valued venue for local HSC performance exams, with access to concert grand pianos for accompaniments. Regular HSC performance evenings were held throughout the year for students to familiarize themselves with the venue.

The New England Sings project also supported many aspects of the curriculum enabling students to participate in a mass choir and orchestral performance of a grand work that would not have been possible in their individual schools.

Further School Music workshops held in 2010 provided strong support for the school music curriculum:

The Year 10 Music Day attracted 107 students from nine schools from around the New England region. A schedule of performance, aural and composition activities was designed to complement the classroom program. The morning sessions were taken by Phil

Oxley and each activity led to discussions on structure, harmony, melodic material and duration. In the afternoon, students were split into groups of twenty and alternated between sessions in African drumming and dance, Indonesian gamelan, Latin-American percussion, African a capella singing and didjeridu.

The HSC Music workshop was held on the 11th & 12th March and attracted 99 students studying both the Music 1 and Music 2 courses and their teachers. The first day commenced with a lively choral session presented by George Torbay where the students worked on an SATB arrangement of Bohemian Rhapsody. Following the choral session, students were split into their chosen courses of Music 1 or Music 2 and were given intensive sessions on the aural/musicology areas of the course. Sessions were conducted by experienced HSC Senior markers, Kim Waldock (Education Manager of the SSO) and Brad Merrick (Barker College). Kim worked specifically with Music 2 students on a wide range of score reading activities from baroque to contemporary Australian works. Students and their teachers were fortunate to receive an overview of the Mandatory topic: Music of the Last 25 Years as there is very little information available which succinctly sums up this topic. Year 11 and 12 students were then split to work developmentally on melodic dictation and sight-reading skills. Brad Merrick worked with

the Music 1 students on developing their aural skills in preparation for the HSC paper. The focus was on contemporary styles of music which is Brad's particular area of expertise. On the Friday, individual musicology and composition sessions were offered to enable students to work intensively on their compositions, essays and vivas in preparation for submission in September.

In the performance sessions, Year 12 students performed their solo repertoire and were offered advice on how to improve their performances in the context of the HSC examination marking guidelines.

Afternoon sessions focused on composition and students were able to see examples of past HSC compositions to get an idea of the standard and also to get ideas for their own compositions.

The 2010 Junior Orchestra two day workshop in July gave students in Years 3-8 the opportunity to perform in a full orchestra, an experience rarely seen in regional primary schools. The workshop, headed by highly skilled conductor Ann Phelan, attracted 95 participants representing 22 schools in the New England, North Coast and North West regions.

Damien Ricketson's composition Seminar held in June 2010 directly addressed the school music curriculum giving support to the teachers assisting students who were writing original compositions as part of their HSC studies.



Scholarships and Bursaries

Fifty eight scholarships for NECOM students in Armidale and Inverell were funded in 2010 by the NSW Department of Education and Training. Scholarships consisted of a series of master classes from professional musicians, general workshops and a ticket to a Musica Viva concert.

Forty eight bursaries were awarded in 2010 for NECOM students from low income families, 34 funded by the Aberaldie Foundation and 15 funded by the Department of Education and Training. Bursaries helped students who might not have been able to continue with their musical education without some financial help. Up to 50% of tuition fees for private 30 minute lessons or up to 50% of program fees were covered for eligible students.

Scholarships and bursaries were awarded to students of NECOM's Music Educator Members

as well as to students in the Instrumental Tuition Program.

Workshops

Wendy Lorenz Workshop

On the 27th March, teachers from Inverell and Armidale plus BMus students from UNE attended a workshop on piano repertoire & technique. Wendy Lorenz presented a repertoire of works from the piano program in the current AMEB series and made helpful suggestions on approaches to the technique of each. Some of the repertoire was new to many of the teachers and very refreshing.

Scale Parties

A series of scale parties were held in Term 1 to assist students with developing the dreaded scales and arpeggios required to perform pieces with fluency and accuracy. Learning to sing the major and natural minor scale, using solfège and Curwen hand signs, they were able to better recognize patterns

in scales. This allowed the children to gain greater fluency in playing scales on their instruments, a significant achievement.

Baroque String Workshops with Louise King

On the 29th April, Baroque specialist Louise King presented a dynamic introduction to Baroque music on which addressed bowing techniques and posture of baroque string playing. Students and teachers were given exercises to experiment with different dynamics, smooth or detached styles to achieve an authentic baroque performance.

Aural Workshops

Five aural workshops were held in Term 2 to assist students in developing essential aural skills. Students were divided according to their developmental needs and were provided with activities designed to develop pitch recognition





“It is a long
accepted truth
that singing
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education”



skills, intonation skills and rhythmic skills, all of which are essential for secure solo and ensembles performances.

Junior Orchestra Workshop

Ninety five young musicians from Armidale, Brisbane, Inverell, Bellingen and Dorrigo gathered at NECOM for two days of music making on Wednesday 30th June & Thursday 1st July. For the seventh consecutive year, we were fortunate to welcome back Ann Phelan to conduct. 12 instrumental Tutors assisted Ann working with students individually and in groups. A fabulous concert for family and friends concluded the workshop.

Kodály Workshop

‘It is a long accepted truth that singing provides the best start to music education’

This statement became a reality for music educators and music students from across the region in August, with over 50 participants James Cuskelly and Maree Hennessy, both of

whom have many years experience in teaching and lecturing in Kodály, gave great insight into teaching music using the Kodály method, challenging even the most experienced musicians among us. The weekend consisted of three main sessions: Musicianship, Teaching Methods (Primary, Secondary and Early Childhood) and Choir. Participants were provided with resources and a large repertoire of music materials to use back in their own contexts. Already there has been much talk among the people who went, seeing amazing results with students!

Dance Workshops

On Sunday 5th of September the Western Common room at NECOM came alive with music and dancing as the first of the Instrumental Program Dance workshops got off to a flying start under the professional direction of Anna Caldwell.

The dancing workshops are a new initiative of NECOM with the goal of giving students direct experience of different dance styles. When playing and learning music which was originally composed for dance, a feel for the style allows the student to easily make musical sense of the rhythmic and melodic structures found in the piece.

In future NECOM hopes to hold workshops teaching Baroque, Classical, and 19th Century dances and I’m sure these will be as enjoyable as the folk dance workshop.

Creative Music Making Workshop

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September saw wind instrumentalists of varying ages create, under the guidance of Gillian Howell and with the admirable help of the Australian Youth Orchestra Wind Quintet, a series of events that culminated in a superb concert of memory and improvisation. The students were divided into three groups. They were encouraged to come up with a “magic” word which then became the focus of three separate ideas which were loosely based on the Music of the Australian composer Ross Edwards. All students finished the concert with a great sense of accomplishment.

Gillian Howell, Education Consultant for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, gave 15 young wind players the opportunity to develop compositions based on fragments of pitch and rhythmic ideas, sharing developments with their peers at every stage of the creative process. Small group compositions were combined into a collective work and were linked by passages derived from a Ross Edwards work and performed by the Quintet.

The workshop was a unique opportunity for students to work with a music educator, well known for her expertise in this specialist area, to collaboratively develop a composition using unfamiliar techniques. The performance of the resulting work at the concluding concert was

testament to both Ms Howell's abilities and the students' and Quintet's willingness to explore uncharted terrain.

New Sydney Wind Quintet Workshops

The New Sydney Wind Quintet visited the region twice during 2010. The first visit, from June 28 – July 2nd included wind demonstrations and workshops at Mingoola PS, Tenterfield HS, Warliaga PS, Holy Trinity School, Inverell and Inverell HS as well as masterclasses at Warialda HS and NECOM for advanced woodwind and brass players. The second visit included ensemble workshops at NECOM Inverell campus for intermediate and advanced woodwind and brass players; wind instrument demonstrations and school concerts at Ross Hill PS, Inverell, Guyra Central School, Rocky River PS, Uralla and masterclasses at NECOM, Armidale for advanced woodwind and brass players from the Armidale Youth Orchestra.

Masterclasses

Peter Cousens

On March 7th, the renowned singer/actor Peter Cousens conducted an afternoon masterclass accompanied expertly on the piano by Anne-Maree McDonald. Peter's excellent communication skills and superb ability to hone in on what needed to be said were a feature of this class. His focus was on each individual and he seemed to have an innate knowledge of how far to push each



student to a deeper level of performance.

David Pereira

David conducted a cello masterclass for four advanced cellists on 27th March. He focused on one specific point for each student according to the needs of that student and impressed all by playing their chosen pieces from memory and "as if in a concert".

Andrew Lorenz

Andrew and his wife Wendy were among the founding members of the New England Ensemble. He conducted a wonderful masterclass for five scholarship students on the 28th March in which he emphasized the importance of feeling the music and using one's whole body to play the violin.

Wendy Lorenz

In town for performances with the "Trio Emyprean" Wendy took time out to conduct a masterclass for four local pianists. A range of works by Brahms, Liszt and an original composition

were presented and advice provided. The importance of balance between the hands, between the bass and melody and between the sections within each work was one of her inspiring messages for the students.

David Griffiths

An inspiring masterclass was given by David Griffiths on 27th March where he gave some wonderful techniques to improve breathing and ways of dealing with fast passages in music with clarity and good articulation.

Louise King

On the 30th April, Louise King gave a wonderful masterclass in which students were encouraged to apply their individual stylistic interpretation to the music they were playing within a baroque context. This lifted their performance and made it more exciting for the performer and listener alike. Her enthusiasm and excitement were really infectious and inspiring for the students.

Stan Kornel

On the 1st May Stan Kornel, in Armidale for the Bach Festival, held a baroque strings masterclass. He gave enthusiastic and inspiring hints about baroque techniques including 1st position playing and vibrato with the bow. He also showed the students some authentic 18th century instruments including a rare viola da gamba.

Carl Pini

On the 23rd August, NECOM violin scholarship holders as well as the PLC String Quartet and Piano Trio, all had the unique opportunity to play for Carl Pini, a musician of international reputation. He provided a fresh perspective on the interpretation of the works which the chamber ensembles presented.

Julia Ryder

On September 5th, cellist Julia Ryder from the Charisma Trio presented





“The Australian Youth Orchestra provided us with a wind quintet for one month in August”



an afternoon masterclass for advanced players. The focus was on the challenges of continuous vibrato, shifting and maintaining a secure bow hold and she had many tricks and practice techniques to share that encouraged the correct approach.

Ros Dunlop

Three scholarship holders had the pleasure of Ros Dunlop’s expertise on 5th September.

The focus of this masterclass was on posture and breathing leading to greater dynamic contrasts and more subtle phrasing. As two of the students were in the final stages of preparation for their Music 2 HSC performances, this masterclass was particularly useful for polishing their pieces for the big day.

David Miller

The final masterclass in the Charisma Trio series was presented by pianist David Miller. Again, HSC piano students had the benefit of developing the finer details of phrasing, dynamics and articulation in their pieces.

Amy Power

A former Armidalian now resident in Holland, Amy Power gave 14 recorder players a weekend of intensive masterclasses on the 16th October. She provided them with the opportunity to gain insight and a new perspective into the performances of their solo pieces representative of a broad range of repertoire from Renaissance to contemporary.

Recorder ensembles Ribatutta and Fontegara also worked with Amy on developing a tight ensemble co-ordination and balance.

Andreas Bohlen

Australian Youth Orchestra Wind Quintet

A series of masterclasses were presented by Jakab Kaufmann (bassoon), Gus Lindsay (oboe), Amy Whyte (Clarinet), Kartini Suharto-Martin (French horn) and Michael Last (flute) during August and September. The Quintet were in residence at the New England Conservatorium for a month and students in the Armidale Youth Orchestra and scholarship holders had the benefit of working with these fine young musicians each week.

New Sydney Wind Quintet

This well-respected Quintet visited the region twice and presented masterclasses to advanced students as part of their schedule of activities. Students from Warialda HS, the Inverell and Armidale campuses of NECOM were offered the opportunity to work with these inspiring musicians: Frank Celata

(clarinet), Bridget Bolliger (flute), Alexander Oguey (oboe), Andrew Bain (French horn) and Andrew Barnes (bassoon).

Australian Youth Orchestra Wind Quintet Residency

NECOM was extremely fortunate to be awarded the Australian Youth Orchestra Regional Residency for 2010 which provided us with the AYO Wind Quintet from 23rd August for a month.

The Quintet consists of Michael Last (flute), Angus Lindsay (oboe), Amy Whyte (clari-net), Jakab Kaufmann (bassoon) and Kartini Suharto-Martin (French horn).

The group formed in 2008 as part of the Chamber Music Course at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where all members are currently studying a Bachelor of Music (Performance).

The quintet embarked on a very full program which included their own rehearsals for 3 concerts in Armidale; working each Tuesday with wind players in the Armidale Youth Orchestra; conducting masterclasses and individual lessons in Armidale and Bellingen; followed by public concerts in Bellingen, Armidale & Glen Innes.

Their final weekend was spent working collaboratively with Gillian Howell from the MSO and NECOM wind students on

a creative music making project. The resultant concert of an original work by the students was interwoven with excerpts of Incantations by Ross Edwards was exceptional.

Altogether, the Quintet made a significant impression on our young wind players at the Conservatorium, and also on the wider community through their concerts and workshops. NECOM thanks the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Colonial Foundation Trust for providing us with this wonderful program in 2010.

Jazz Musician-in-Residence

A successful grant application to the Trust Foundation enabled NECOM to employ a jazz musician-in-residence, Warwick Dunham, for six months from April to October.

This was a collaborative project between the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) and five Armidale schools (Duval High, Armidale High, The Armidale School, Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale and the New England Girls School). Mr Dunham worked for a day each week in each of the participating schools and also provided workshops at NECOM and facilitated jazz jam nights at the Cattleman's Hotel.

The project reinvigorated community interest in jazz music – this was done by the many performances by local school jazz ensembles in the local community and



also the final concert which attracted an audience of approx. 250 people. These wonderful events have sparked much interest in the local community and there is even talk of re-establishing the Armidale jazz Festival which used to run in the 1980's and early 90's.

The project also provided pedagogical support for music teachers in the area of jazz – teachers worked collaboratively during class and rehearsal time and were able to pick up knowledge and skills as a result.

Inverell Campus

Infrastructure

2010 was a year of enormous development for the Inverell Campus with the NECOM Director securing the 20 year lease of the Sinclair Place Building. Additionally a grant enabled the relocation of a donated school classroom on to the site, to be used as NECOM teaching studios and rehearsal space, and our programs have

expanded accordingly.

An Aboriginal mural that had been hidden by boards in the existing building was re-discovered and uncovered. It states that Sinclair Place is a sacred place - we agree.

Marketing and Publicity

Prime News' live coverage of the building being moved in October provided good publicity for the Conservatorium, and the local co-ordinators, Sarah & David Matthews performed some duos on the grass verge next to the construction site immediately before the move. This helped to create a very positive image of the Conservatorium and what it offers the public.

Backed up by regular Conservatorium articles in the Inverell Times and strengthened by the support of the Inverell Council displaying brochures in the library and information centre, the Conservatorium is becoming a household name in the region. The Inverell Council must be

acknowledged for their financial assistance towards the co-ordinators salaries.

Admin

Sarah and David Matthews were appointed as co-ordinators to the Inverell Campus in September to take over from Peta Blyth. The office space became more workable, although the computing systems needed some expert help.

21 violins, 2 violas, 6 cellos, an electric drum kit and 20 music stands were purchased and a cello was donated to the Conservatorium.

Some of these instruments were subsequently sold to students, and others rented out.

Programs

The brass and strings programs began in term 4, and developed steadily in line with the increased public profile of the Conservatorium. Both the string and brass teachers gave demonstration performances in the majority of schools in the region. The numbers of woodwind enrolments remained high and Wendy





“The contemporary music programme has proved to be a winner”



Champion was taken on as a full-time staff member during 2010.

Geoff Croft secured a dedicated music teaching space at Ross Hill School, so that instrumental lessons could be held during the school day for students.

The idea of introducing a Contemporary Music Program was born at the end of the year and has proved to be a winner, with 5 drum students and 3 bass guitar students.

Other programs in 2010 consisted of Mini Minstrels (Early Childhood Music) both at the Conservatorium and Ross Hill School, Music Makers (a group for adults with disabilities), Peta Blyth’s vocal classes, Margaret Mason’s guitar classes and the NECOM Choir and a performance arts drama group.

The NECOM Director successfully gained grant funding through the Regional Funding Applications for Conservatoriums initiative. Through the NECOM and Ross Hill partnership, music

classes for Indigenous kindergarten students began, delivered by early childhood music teacher Ros Oliver.

Workshops and professional development

There were a number of workshops throughout the year including Duo Histoire (Guitar and Saxophone), 2 guitar workshops with Steve Thorneycroft, a flute/ piano workshop with Melissa Philp, the New Sydney Wind Quintet workshop (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn) and an Early Childhood / Dalcroze Method workshop with Paula Melville-Clarke.

The April in service presented by Deidre Rickards and NECOM staff for teachers from Inverell Public and Ashford Schools was highly successful, with requests for more such events from Ashford teachers.

Performances and Visiting Artists

The Sapphire Band held concerts in April and November, each a resounding success. NECOM choir and woodwind groups performed, as well as the new brass teachers Lisa and Gergely Malyusz and Sarah and David Matthews who joined with Barbara Wigg to perform a delightful Quintet by Haydn in the November concert. The Matthews also performed the notorious but wonderful duo by Kodaly.

Another highlight of the year was the concert given by piano competition winner Konstantin Shamray in the Inverell

Town Hall, in June. He was joined by cellist Eleanor Streatfeild who performed Rachmaninov’s cello sonata with him, to great acclaim. The concert was well attended and greatly appreciated.

Other performances throughout the year include Duo Histoire, 2 concerts by the NECOM piano students and a duo performance for the Rotary club, performed by Sarah and David Matthews.

Concerts and Events

Trio Emyprean

Wendy & Andrew Lorenz and David Pereira formed this trio in 2008. They are currently based in Canberra and included NECOM on their 2010 tour of Eastern Australia. It was something of a homecoming for two members of the Trio. Both Andrew and Wendy Lorenz played for several years as members of the New England Ensemble, resident at UNE. Clearly many New England locals were glad to see them return as the CB Newling Auditorium held an appreciative and packed audience on the evening of March 27 for their Armidale performance.

Konstantin Shamray & Eleanor Streatfeild

Konstantin won the prestigious Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008 and has since been touring widely round Australia, performing with several orchestras and giving many solo recitals. He visited the New England region for a series of concerts

co-ordinated by NECOM in Armidale, Inverell and Bellingen. Konstantin opened the concert with Beethoven's 32 Variations on an Original Theme in C minor & the Symphonic Etudes by Schumann. He was then joined by NECOM teacher Eleanor Streatfeild in the second half to perform Dvorak's Silent Woods finishing with a lively performance of the Prokofiev Sonata. This was wonderful opportunity for a NECOM staff member to work with a performer of international stature.

Deborah Cheetham

Aboriginal Opera Singer Deborah Cheetham concluded her week in Inverell & Armidale with a concert at NECOM entitled 'til the Black Lady Sings – a wonderful musical journey through her career, collaborating with NECOM woodwind teacher, Nick Negerevich. This was a special connection as Deborah was Nick's first AMusA flute student. Again this provided a wonderful performance opportunity which showcased the talent of a NECOM staff member.

Kids' Proms

On 5th September the OTC Auditorium was buzz with excited little people and their families as the Armidale Symphony Orchestra and Mini Minstrels presented the 2010 Kids Proms. For young children, this type of experience where they have the opportunity to watch, listen to and be 'up close and personal' with an orchestra can be a momentous experience shaping their future interest and associations



with orchestral music.

AYO Wind Quintet

A series of concerts were presented by the Australian Youth Orchestra Wind Quintet as part of their regional residency at NECOM in August and September. Audiences in Armidale, Inverell and Glen Innes were treated to a diverse program which included works by Ibert, Edwards, Arnold, Barber and Nielson.

Shelli Morris

Shelli Morris visited Tingha and Armidale for a very busy week in early Term 4, culminating in a concert in each town as part of the Closing the Music Gap program. Both concerts opened with work she had workshopped with the children in each place, followed by some songs with local indigenous musicians and concluded with a beautiful presentation of her own work and story.

New Sydney Wind Quintet

The NSWQ visited the region twice during 2010 as part of the Breaking the Wind Barrier program. A

series of public concerts were presented in the Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes, the Sir Henry Parkes School of the Arts at Tenterfield and the CB Newling Auditorium in Armidale. Schools concerts were presented at Mingoola PS, Tenterfield HS, Warialda HS, Inverell HS, Ross Hill PS, Guyra Central School and Rocky River PS. NECOM staff members Nick Negerevich and Rebecca Simon joined the Quintet on their first tour of the region and performed to appreciative audiences in each town. On the second tour, NECOM brass teachers Lisa and Gergely Malyusz performed with the Quintet and as new arrivals in Armidale, showcased their fabulous talents. Many of the towns that were visited during these tours rarely (if ever) hear live performances from professional musicians and so these opportunities are essential in developing a richer cultural life for these towns.

New England Sings!

New England Sings! was a mass choral/orchestral event held on the 23/24th October featuring 900 performers from 22 schools

around the New England/ North West region as well as the Armidale Youth Orchestra. Two Primary choirs of 250 voices each and a secondary choir of 300 voices was formed and rehearsed in their own schools before coming together for cluster rehearsals throughout the six-month rehearsal period. Two concerts were presented at Lazenby Hall to a sellout audience of 1100 proud parents and the community. The Primary choir, conducted by Rowena Tall, starred in the first half and performed a challenging repertoire of Australian folk songs and contemporary art music repertoire. Solo items included Cantilena Singers, New England Singers, the Celtic string group from PLC, Duval HS Soul Band, the NEGS vocal ensemble and the Armidale HS Jazz Combo.

The second half of the program featured the secondary choir and orchestra, conducted by George Torbay, performing





Carmina Burana by Carl Orff. Soprano Caroline King from PLC Armidale, gave an exquisite solo performance of In Trutina, the fourth movement of Carmina. The concert concluded with a combined Primary/Secondary choir and orchestra performance of You're the Voice by John Farnham.

There are now so few opportunities for our students to experience the thrill of singing great choral repertoire in the company of similarly committed young people accompanied by a full symphony orchestra. An added bonus was the establishment of a fund to provide bursaries for students in financial difficulty to pursue their music studies.

UNE Graduation Ceremonies

NECOM has won the contract to continue to provide the music and solo item for the graduation ceremonies at the UNE for 2010 & 2011.

Regular performers are

John Kellaway from Newcastle Conservatorium on trumpet, Deidre Rickards keyboard, and Steve Tafra guitar, both from Armidale. Shelli Hulcumbe from Queensland Conservatorium and Samantha Cobcroft from Newcastle Conservatorium share the soprano soloist role over the 6 ceremonies throughout the year.

It is often a cliff-hanger as to whether we are going to get through the wonderful outdoor ceremony before anything untoward happens with the weather! However, the graduation is always a grand occasion and the NECOM musicians certainly do their part to ensure this outcome.

NECOM Board of Directors

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Music Educator Members

The NECOM model embraces the concept of being a 'Conservatorium Without Walls' whereby local music teachers become affiliated as Music Educator Members and access an extensive

range of services provided by the Conservatorium as well as contribute as contracted employees in many of NECOM's programs. NECOM's 63 Music Educator Members provide quality tuition in vocal and instrumental music, musicianship and theory to around 1250 students. This is in addition to the 3,000 NECOM program participants.

The following range of services was offered to Music Educator Members and their students in 2010:

- Professional development through attendance at workshops and masterclasses;
- Advertising - NECOM Newsletter, website;
- Access to teaching studios for hire;
- Concert venues for studio concerts;
- Masterclasses for their advanced students;
- Workshop access for all their students;
- Access to NECOM Ensembles for their students to enrich their learning;
- Bursaries for students of families under financial stress;
- Scholarship assistance for their advanced students;
- Additional employment opportunities (eg as conductors and accompanists of NECOM ensembles & choirs or tutors in orchestral workshops).

ARCHER, Cathy
BMusEd (Newcastle Con.); Performers Certificate in Voice - Trinity College; Classroom Teacher

Ph: 6771 4886

BARFORD, Marian
B.Mus Violin/Viola
Beginner to Advanced
Tutor - NECOM Beginner
Strings Program
Ph: 6772 4257

BLYTH, Peta
B.Mus (Hons) BA Dip Ed
L.Mus.A (Piano) Voice
ARCM (London) (Voice)
Voice - Inverell based
Clarion Singers; concert and
opera artist; adjudicator
Ph: 6724 8248
wpblyth@bigpond.com

BRADLEY, Robyn
LMus, BMus, MRurSc., BVSc
Piano/Accompaniment
All grades beginner to
advanced; Accompanist
(intermediate to advanced)
Ph: 6772 6468
robyn.m.bradley@gmail.com

BROWN, Dave
BA(Mus), Dip.Ed(SecMus)
Brass - All instruments at
all levels, happy to teach
to other regional centres
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Ph: 6779 2614
Mob: 0419 539 372

CHAMPION, Wendy
B.Mus (Hons Perf)
Aust.Inst.Music
Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone
Inverell & Wialda
Mob: 0438 287 582

CLARKE, Zana
B.A (Melb), B.Mus.
(Melb), Dip.Ed.(UNE),
A.Mus.A (Violin)
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zana@orpheusmusic.
com.au

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margaretcusack17@bigpond.com

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sydodds@hotmail.com
www.heart-strings.com.au

DRISCOLL, Robyn
Dip.Mus.Ed., L.Mus.A. Dip. Mus.Ed (Newcastle) (Piano)
Piano - beginner to diploma levels
Ph: 6772 1349

DUNHAM, Warwick
ASCM B.Mus (Syd)
Organ, Piano, Jazz Piano, Music Theory, Composition, Music Technology
Ph: 6775 2396
Mob: 0417 210 509
suncrest1@bigpond.com

FINCO, Al
BA (UNE) Dep Ed (UNE)
French Horn Teacher
Ph: 0438 235 467
afinco@as.edu.au

GALLAGHER, Aidan
Gde 8 Clarinet
Part-time teacher NECOM
Beginner Woodwind Programme - Clarinet only
Ph: 6772 7203
aidang@nsw.chariot.net.au

GRIFFITH, Debra
A.Mus.A, Cert MusT (USQ)
MTA NSW Accredited
Piano - Beg. to Adv; HSC reqs.
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AMEB & Trinity exam prep; Musicianship; MusicCraft.
Ph: 6771 1019
Mob: 0421 843 398
babygrand13@hotmail.com

GUYMER, Sheila
A.MusA, L.MusA, B.Mus (Hons), MMusSt. (Solo Piano), MMus (Accomp).
Piano, Theory, Musicianship, Accompaniment. All ages and levels welcome.
Ph: 6772 7013
Mob: 0422 379 044
pianoplus@me.com

HAN, Woo-Hwa
Adv Dip Mus (Osaka), Piano - Young Beginners
Ph: 6772 1275
woohwa@aapt.net.au

HARPLEY, Robert
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Mob: 0404 443 879
robhply@iinet.net.au

HILL, Jennifer
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Ph: 6721 3888

HUDDLESTON, Wendy
AMusA, L..Mus, FFCSME, DSME, Accompanist
Conductor, Accompanist/ Coach; Examination prep.
Ph: 6772 8514
Mob: 0411 436 194
wwhuddle@bigpond.com

KELSON, April
BA, B Mus (Hons) M, Dip Edu, Kodaly Prim Level II
Violin/Viola
Beginner to Advanced
NECOM Beginner Strings Program
Mob: 0424 171 632
akelson@necom.org.au

LARKINS, Gerard
A Mus A, L Mus A.

Woodwind Teacher. Instruments taught include Descant Recorder, Single Reeds (Clarinet & Saxophone) - beginner to intermediate. Specialist Flute Teacher including tertiary and diploma students. Fully equipped teaching studio with digital recording facilities located in quiet position in north Armidale. 25 years of instrumental teaching experience at regional conservatoria, schools and privately. Happy to give lessons in the student's home if preferred. Flexible lesson times. Beginners encouraged.
Ph: 6771 4245
Mob: 0410 444 850
woodwindteacher@dodo.com.au

LAWRENCE, Madeleine
L.Mus.A, A.Mus.A, ADMT (with Merit)
Piano/ Musicianship
Beginners to diploma level; Formerly lecturer in musicianship at NSW Conservatorium & guest lecturer for HSC revision courses
Ph: 6772 1082
mlawrence-fairy@bigpond.com

LEWIS, Nicole
BA Piano, Piano Accompany - Beginners to intermediate.
Tel: 0410 616 518
cnlewis03@gmail.com

MALYUSZ, Lisa
B. Mus (Dist) Uni of Arts, Graz; Dip Mus (Dist) Sydney Con.
All Brass instruments
Beginners to Advanced.
NECOM tutor.
Former member of the Thessaloniki State Orchestra.
Ph: 0451 821 099
lisa@necom.org.au

MALYUSZ, Gergely
M. Mus (Dist) Uni of Arts, Graz; Austrian Ministry Award of Excellence.
Former Principal Horn of Thessaloniki State Orchestra. French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone and Euphonium. Experienced teacher of all Brass, Keyboard and Music Theory (Austria).
Ph: 0433 379 597
gergely@necom.org.au

MATTHEWS, David
LRAM, ARAM
Violin/Viola
Chamber Music Specialist
Former Member Medici String Quartet, WAO & Violin Lecturer UQ, Beginner - Advanced NECOM
NECOM Inverell Co-ordinator
Ph: 6721 5271
Mob: 0429 190 943
d.vln.matt@gmail.com

MATTHEWS, Sarah
Dip.Ed., Dip.Orch. Stud., BA Mus.Ed, Cello;
Former Member Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Lecturer in Cello
Charles Darwin University, QSO/QPO & WASO Player
Beginner-Advanced NECOM
NECOM Inverell Co-ordinator
Ph: 6721 5271
Mob: 0428 190 962
sarahcelloyates@gmail.com

McDONALD, Fiona
BA Hons, Dip Ed
Flute, Baroque Flute, Recorder
Beginners to Advanced; Children & Adults.
Ph: 6772 8863
atholglenn@ozemail.com.au

McLACHLAN, Mary
Piano - Inverell only
Ph: 6722 3030

McLAREN, Merran
Dip.Mus(Ed), L.Mus.A, LTCL,
Dip.Orff institute Salz



Piano, Voice, Musicianship, Accompanist, Formerly Director of Music at Pymble Ladies College; Ascham School Edgecliff; A Professional Music Studio Sydney
Ph: 6732 2256
bunyipmmm@nsw.chariot.net.au

McPHAN, Greg
BA, DipEd, PhD, AMusA & LMusA (Piano) LMusA (Voice); Voice
Ph: 6775 1312
greg.mcphan@une.edu.au

McPHAN, Jenny
A.Mus, L.Mus, LTCL, FTCL
Piano; Specialises in intermediate to advanced; Chamber music classes, performances classes
Accompanist
Ph: 6775 1312

METCALFE OAM, Sue
L.Mus, DSME,FFCSME DSCM
Cello, Accompanist (Strings only), Cello choir, Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6775 1165
Mob: 0419 225 236

MICHELS-THORN, Cécile
Dip Recorder Teaching (Netherlands); Cert. Musicianship (France)
Recorder, Carte Blanche recorder ensemble, Musicianship (Jaques-Dalcroze), French music (toddlers, children)
Ocarina, School Holiday Workshops, Exam Prep., Community Projects
Ph: 6772 5889
cmichels@aapt.net.au

MYERS, Bruce
BMus, BTeach, FTCL, LMusA, Orff Trained
Conductor, Arranger and Brass Specialist for all levels and ages.
Mob: 0414 294 287
bruce.roger.myers@gmail.com

NEGEREVICH, Nick
A.Mus.A, D.S.C.M, PGDIM(USQ)
Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet & Saxophone - Tutor: NECOM
Woodwind Program
Currently AMEB Examiner in Woodwinds - Instrumental teacher in Woodwind
Mob: 0427 796 701
nnegerevich@necom.org.au

NIEMEYER, Belinda
Cert IV Assess&Wkpl Train, Dip Children's Services
NECOM Early Childhood Music Program.
Ph: 6775 1808
Mob: 0409 034 686

NOLAN, Matt
Studying BA(Mus) UNE (Mainly) Classical and Acoustic Guitar
PH: 6771 5627
mnolan4@une.edu.au

PARKER, Robyn
BA, Dip.Ed, Dip.Spec.Ed
Recorder - Beginners to advanced. Fontegara and Ribatutta Recorder Ensembles
Ph: 6772 7976

PROSSER, Sam
Gde 8 Saxophone
Part-time Teacher
NECOM Beginner Woodwind Programme
Ph: 0412 357 829

PULLEY, Laurie
OAM,BA, FFCSME, DSME, DSCM, LMusA, Dip. Mus.Ed
Violin/Viola
Beginners to advanced; instrumental ensembles, orchestra, baritone soloist; classroom music, Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6772 1124

PURCELL, Chris
Guitar - Classical and Blues; Director - New England Youth Guitar Ensemble; Director - Vocal Chords Community Choir.

Ph: 6772 3265
chrispurcell2@bigpond.com

RICKARDS, Deidre
L.Mus.A, MACE, ARCM, B.Mus.Ed (Newcastle), B.Ed (Deakin)
Pianist/Accompanist
Composition Teacher
Ph: 6771 1440
Mob: 0439 711 444
deidrerickards@bigpond.com

ROBINSON, Helen
Dip.Mus.Ed, A.Mus.A
Piano - beginner to intermediate levels
Inverell only
Ph: 6721 1519

ROOBOL, Leanne
B.Mus, A.Mus.A, Grad Dip.Ed
Director - New England Singers
Mob: 0427 712 548

ROWLANDS, Lindsay
B.A, Dip.Ed, MLitt
Guitar - Classical, Electric, Folk; Ukelele; Bass - Electric; West African
Percussion - Djembe; Shakuhachi - beginner
Mob: 0411 614 033
lrowlands@exemail.com.au

RUSSELL, Errol
B.Mus, Dip.Ed, L.Mus.A, LCTL
Violin/Viola
Chamber Music classes, Armidale String Quartet, Former member SSO
Ph: 6772 5556
Mob: 0421 501 256
SCHMALZ, Jelena
Pipe Organ, Examination C for Church Organists (Berlin)
Ph: 6772 3803
lena.schmalz@web.de

SMOLDERS, Sandi
Dip.Ed (Inf/Prim)
Recorder Beginner to intermediate; TAFE Early Childhood Music interested in working with children with special needs.
Ph: 6772 1702

SOUTHCOTT, Inge
B.Mus (Perf); M.Mus.(Vocal Pedagogy) M.B.B.S., BFA (Hons Ceramics); Former Member Opera Aust.Voice
- All ages, Beginners to Professionals; All styles with healthy technique; Musicianship; Audition & Exam prep; 13 yrs teaching experience.
Ph: 6772 0258 (evenings)
Mob: 0431 479 008
ingesinger@bigpond.com

STREATFEILD, Eleanor
A.Mus.A.,B.Mus.
Cello - Beginner to Advanced; Tutor - NECOM Beginner Strings Program
Mob: 0403 211 778

TAFRA, Stephen
B.Arts (Mus), Grad.Dip.Mus
Guitar; Specialises in Classical/ Solo guitar to advanced level.
Can teach Jazz/ Improvisation to an intermediate level. Popular commercial styles can also be incorporated into a productive learning method if requested;
EphenStephen guitar duo.
Ph: 6771 2716
Mob: 0414 512 716

TALL, Stephen
Voice - Beginners to advanced; Ages 13 to adult; All styles including AMEB exam preparation.
Ph: 6778 3293
Mob: 0406 953 366
tall.icon@bigpond.com

THORN, Benjamin
PhD, BA (Hons), Dip.Ed
Recorder / Flute/ Celtic Harp/ Composition.
Accompaniment on harp. Examinations, performances, Aeolian Players (adultrecorder group).
Ph: 6772 5889
benjaminthorn@aapt.net.au

THORNEYCROFT, Stephen
 B.Mus(Hons); Guitar/
 Composition; Guitar (all
 styles), Composition lecturer
 UNE, EphenStephen
 guitar duo
 Ph: 6771 2762
 stevethorneycroft@mac.com
 www.ephenstephen.com

TRELOAR, Anna
 MA LTCL (T) MMTA
 Piano, beginners to
 intermediate
 skylinestudio70@yahoo.com

TREVES, Elliott
 A. Mus., working on B.A.
 Music at UNE. Specialising
 in Drum kit, Didgeridoo,
 Tupan, Djembe, Cajon,
 & Doumbek. All ages
 and styles welcomed.
 Mob: 0423 080 183
 improoveurgroove@gmail.com

WARNOCK, Jenny
 A.Mus.A (Piano & Voice),
 B.Mus.Ed (Sydney)
 Voice/ Piano/ Accompanist
 Beginners to advanced, all
 ages, both instruments.
 Mezzo Soprano soloist,
 accompanist for singers
 and instrumentalists.
 Ph: 6772 6279
 Mob: 0431 188 310
 jencal@northnet.com.au

WATERS, Deirdre
 A.Mus.A, T.Mus.A. LTCL(T)
 Piano/ Musicianship;
 Piano (Prel-Gde 8);
 specialising in Musicianship
 Grades 4-7; Accreditation
 Sydney Con. (Mus/ Theory);
 New Music Craft Syllabus
 Ph: 6775 3754

WIGG, Barbara
 ARCM; Piano - Teaching
 all grades from beginners
 to advanced level; Also all
 levels of musicianship.
 Ph: 6722 2119
 barbarawigg@bigpond.com

WOODHOUSE, Rob
 BA (UNSW)
 Teaching Saxophone,

Clarinet & Flute. Conductor
 and Arranger.
 Mob: 0425 212 874
 woody@hilife.com.au

How to contact us:

NECOM
 ABN: 16 104 329 446
 ACN: 104 329 446

Office: Ground Floor
 CB Newling Campus
 Cnr Mossman & Faulkner Sts
 Armidale NSW 2350

Mail: PO Box 1313
Tel: (02) 6772 7203
Fax: (02) 6772 7511
Web: <http://necom.une.edu.au>

Acting Director:
 Corinne Arter
 director@necom.org.au

Admin:
 Jan Kirk
 admin@necom.org.au

Finance:
 Heather Maciver
 finance@necom.org.au

Office Hours:
 Mon, Thurs, Fri
 9am - 5pm
 Tues, Wed
 9am - 6pm

Inverell Campus
 Sinclair Place Public School
 79 Moore St, Inverell NSW 2360
Mail: PO Box 1242, Inverell

Coordinators:
 Sarah & David Matthews
Tel: (02) 6722 2023
Mob: 0428 190 962 (Sarah)
Mob: 0428 190 943 (David)
 inverell@necom.org.au

Financial Statement

Income & Expenditure Statement

1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010

Income

DET Grants Program	\$160,000
Armidale Music Programs	\$204,917
Inverell Music Programs	\$33,323
Masterclasses/Workshops	\$5,752
Schools Ensembles	\$7,963
Hire of Facilities	\$16,514
Performances/Concerts	\$22,254
Other Income	\$8,095
Total Income	\$458,818

Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$173,808
Artistic Program Expenses	\$190,634
Inverell Campus	\$57,880
Other	\$3,000
Total Expenditure	\$425,322
Net Income	\$33,496





CB Newling Building,
(Cnr Mossman and Faulkner Sts)
Armidale NSW 2350 Australia
PO Box 1313, Armidale NSW 2350

T: 02 6772 7203

F: 02 6772 7511

WEB: <http://necom.une.edu.au>

