



NEWSLETTER No.1

From the Director

Welcome to 2009 at the Upper Hunter Conservatorium. A special welcome to any new families who may be with us for the first time. It's good to see some new faces amongst our students.

2009 is promising to be an exciting year for us here and I'll keep you informed of some exciting developments along the way.

For now read this newsletter and discover all the activities that are happening here at the con—it's not just music lessons but all manner of classes and ensembles—why not get in the act and discover the rewards of music.

I look forward to a successful year of music making in the Upper Hunter.

What's New for '09

The beginning of Term 1 sees a number of new teachers commencing with the Conservatorium.

Donna Hopkins will be taking over Muswellbrook and Scone ECM classes. Donna is a pre-school teacher and a long-term resident of Scone.

Newcastle based guitarist **Nathan Chapple** will be taking over Tristan Bradley's studio in Muswellbrook and Scone. Nathan is currently studying a Bachelor of Music at Newcastle Conservatorium.

As mentioned elsewhere **Larni Christie** will be joining us to conduct Drama classes. Larni is the recent recipient of the Outstanding Contributor to Culture Award at the Muswellbrook Australia Day ceremony.

Voice teacher **Jill Carter** will be taking on the bulk of the Muswellbrook and Scone voice studio and choir. Jill is a graduate of the Newcastle Conservatorium and is a former resident of Scone.

Congratulations to...

Congratulations to **Meagan O'Brien, Andrew Hermon, Katrina Constable** and **Brad Delforce** who have all accepted places at University to study music. Meagan, Andrew and Katrina will head to Newcastle Conservatorium while Brad will study at New England University. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Date due for payment

Term 1 Fees are due for payment on 23rd February.

Non-payment of fees may jeopardise your music lesson.

Please refer to statements for methods of payment.

Don't forget to make use of the Conservatorium website. It's a home on the web that includes photos, newsletters, all necessary forms and all our newsletters. Just visit

<http://www.uhcm.com.au>

DRAMA CLASSES

Drama makes a welcome return to the conservatorium this term, led by experienced Drama teacher, Mrs Larni Christie. Larni will be teaching four classes in Muswellbrook and one and in Singleton and is also available for private drama lessons in both locations.



Classes in Muswellbrook will be:

1. Kinder—Year 2
2. Primary
3. Young Teens Class
4. School Certificate Preparation



Singleton students will be able to enroll in the Singleton Drama Ensemble.

Muswellbrook classes will be held at Muswellbrook South Public School on Wednesday afternoons, while classes in Singleton will be held at the Grail Building on Thursday afternoons.

For further information or to register your interest please contact the conservatorium office.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC

The UHCM Early Childhood Music program will continue in 2009. We are pleased to welcome Donna Hopkins to lead classes in Muswellbrook and Scone. ECM classes remain on Tuesday in Muswellbrook, but have moved to Wednesday mornings in Scone.

Expressions of Interest are also being taken for classes to resume in Singleton. Classes will be held on Tuesday mornings and will follow the Kindermusik curriculum.

To register for an ECM class, please contact the conservatorium office.

Musicianship and Theory Classes are available in all centres.

Call the Office to enquire about grades and classes in your area.

Welcome to all new conservatorium students and families. We hope that your time with us is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. If you have any questions please contact the conservatorium office on PH: 6541 4888

UHCM Ensembles

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium offers several exciting opportunities for students to further develop musical skills through ensemble participation. Students undertaking performance in an ensemble often develop aural skills and overall musicianship at a faster rate than those undertaking private study only.

The **Upper Hunter Conservatorium Orchestra**, continues to impress audiences across the region and further afield. Highlights for 2009 include a "Last Night of the Proms", plus a return performance of "Messiah"

Students enrolled in the Orchestra programme also participate in the con's small ensembles. These ensembles include the String Ensemble, Mini-strings, Wind Quintet, Percussion Ensemble and Wind Ensemble.



The **Upper Hunter Showband** continues in 2009. A highlight of this year's calendar will be a performance in the Calgary Stampede followed by a visit to Florida for performances at Disneyworld and Universal Studios.

Places on this tour are still available but please hurry as the tour is fast approaching.



The **UHCM Choir** is now under the care of Jill Carter. In 2008 the choir performed on several occasions, including the UHCM Celebration of Strings Concert and UHCM Ensembles Concert. Performances this year include performance with the UHCM Orchestra plus several other events.

For further information on any Con Ensemble please contact the office or refer to your student handbook.

Term 1 Events

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday 15th March	All Day	Scone	Kia-ora Piano and Guitar workshop
Sunday 29th March	2:00	Muswellbrook South PS	UHCM Orchestra and Ensembles Concert
1st-3rd April		Scone	Kia-ora Youth Music Camp—full info mcmullin-miles@westnet.com.au

CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT

Information for parents and students

1. Fees

All tuition fees are to be paid by the term in advance, unless other arrangements have been made. Students with overdue fees will incur a late fee and may have their lessons cancelled.

2. Payment of Fees

Fees may be paid in person at the Conservatorium office, Hunter Mutual or via the post or internet. Please refer to the back of your invoice for further information. Conservatorium teaching staff may not accept fee payments.

3. Refund Policy

Lessons missed by the teacher will be made up or credited to your account. Teacher times are booked for each term, therefore lessons missed by students (for any reason) do not qualify for a refund or make-up lesson.

4. Discontinued Lessons

Both the teacher and office must be notified at a student's intention to withdraw from lessons. Withdrawals can only be made at half term or at the end of term. The Conservatorium teachers reserve the right to discontinue lessons where a student's behaviour or attitude is deemed inappropriate, in consultation with the student's parent or guardian.

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