



From the Director

Firstly I'd like to congratulate the members of our orchestra who spent a weekend in Armidale recently. It was such a pleasure to be a part of the tour and performances that were of a very high standard.

Term 3 sees AMEB exams, an exciting time for all involved. Exams are a reward for all the hard work that goes on throughout the year. Don't forget to thank your accompanist for the work that they have put into your exam as well.

I hope that everyone has a terrific term 3 as we begin the descent to the end of the year.

Term 3 Payments

Term 3 invoices accompany this newsletter. Due date for payment is Friday 5th September.

Non-payment by this date may result in a late fee being added to your account.

Xstrata Power of Music

The Xstrata Coal Power of Music Program is continuing to develop in several of our Upper Hunter Schools. Our school bands and choirs have been busy preparing the music for our showcase concert to be held in Singleton on 7th September. We are also delighted to have had the expert guidance and tuition from Mark Walton, who has visited schools on numerous occasions and passed on his extensive knowledge to our students.

Concert - Change of Date and Venue

Due to several reasons, the Xstrata Coal Power of Music Concert will no longer be held at Newcastle City Hall. The new venue is to be the Singleton Civic Centre and the concert is to be held on Sunday, 7th September. This will allow us much more flexibility logistically, and will also allow many more parents to come and enjoy the talents of so many children.

Entry is by gold coin donation, but tickets must be pre ordered by phoning the conservatorium office.

Music Craft

Places are now available in Wednesday afternoon music craft classes in both Singleton and Muswellbrook.

Music Craft is an important part of any music education and is a requirement for some AMEB grades.

Classes are held in a group setting making for an affordable option. To enrol please contact the conservatorium office on PH; 6541 4888



UHCM Orchestra and Chamber Music Camp

The Conservatorium is excited to announce the 4th Annual Orchestra and Chamber Music Camp. This years camp will be held on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th September at St James School in Muswellbrook.

This years conductor is Tor Fromyhr, who is currently head of strings at the ANU School of Music. Other tutors will include Trevor Mee, Jennifer Kershaw, cellist Anthea Scott-Mitchell, Alison Murphy, Steven Lavis, Robert Thompson and percussionist David Tracy.

This is a great way to discover orchestral music in a fun and supportive environment - A definite highlight of the UHCM calendar.

Registration forms are available from the Conservatorium office or from you teacher.

PIANO KEYS FOR SALE

The conservatorium still has piano keys available for 'purchase' to assist in the purchase of a grand piano for the conservatorium hall.

Be a part of this history making event and have your name become a part of a grand piano.

Keys are available from \$50 through to \$2000.

These are the final weeks to purchase your key.



Resignation of Chairman

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Conservatorium, John Colvin resigned from both the board and as Chairman. His resignation was accepted by the board with considerable reluctance.

In his resignation, John expressed his thanks to those many individuals in the community and staff who have contributed to the success of the Con and expressed his confidence in our current Director and the future of the Con. He also expressed his thanks to Sr Dorothy and Frs George and James for their assistance with the lease of "The Convent" in Muswellbrook.

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium was established through the efforts of John Colvin and Lou Fisher who sought assistance and gained support from politicians, the State Government and the Ministry of the Arts. In 1997, these efforts culminated in gaining approval and funding to establish the Conservatorium.

From humble beginnings at a makeshift office at the Muswellbrook Council Administration Centre, the Conservatorium, under the Chairmanship of John, blossomed into an organization which now has over 700 students and over 30 teachers and staff and services all major towns in the Upper Hunter.

Through John's vision, enthusiasm and persistence, the Conservatorium has a permanent place in the cultural landscape of the region. It has brought and will continue to bring much pleasure to many people as well as develop musical skills in the young (and not so young) who would not otherwise have that chance.

The community owes John Colvin a great debt of gratitude for the founding and continuation of this institution.

Bruce Macfarlane

Chairman

At the recent AGM Mr Bruce McFarlane was elected to the position of Chairman of the UHCM, with Russell Byers taking the vice-chairman's position, Roland Lee is secretary and Jennifer Lecky continues as treasurer.

Lesson Vacancies

Term 3 is an ideal time to enrol in lessons. Piano in Blandford and Murrurndi as well as Guitar in Singleton are areas where there are several vacancies.

For lesson enquiries please contact the conservatorium office

AMEB Exams

Good luck to all students preparing for the upcoming AMEB, the conservatorium wishes you all the best as you test yourself.

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