

Dear Members and Friends

A Special General Meeting, which was called by a group of Members of the Association, was held on Monday February 23rd. The Robert Knox Hall was filled to capacity with Members and visitors.

At the beginning of the Meeting the Chair outlined the recent restructure of the Management of CC Conservatorium, calling upon the material provided on our website and providing further explanation and detail. In addition, he informed the Meeting that a Budget had been prepared for 2015 and as required by our Constitution and by the various Acts of Governance, a detailed audited Report of the Financial Activities of CC Conservatorium will be tabled at the AGM on Monday 11 May 2015.

As outlined in recent correspondence from the Chair, the Meeting was called by a relatively small number of members to move a motion of no confidence in one or more members of the Board and to raise concerns over issues concerning financial affairs and whether the Board had ignored or breached policies and procedures or the Constitution in its conducting of the affairs of the Conservatorium.

When the motion was put for no confidence in one or more members of the Board, the Chair, after having sought legal advice, ruled that the motion was unconstitutional and thus invalid as it failed to provide specific details. It was also ruled in the same manner for each of the other two concerns.

As a result the Meeting was closed. The Chair opened the floor for questions regarding recent decisions of the Board including the redundancy of the Business Director in October of 2014. Many issues were raised and answers given where possible. Some of these questions were tabled for further consideration. Members were asked to put in writing, to the Secretary, any concerns or complaints about the matters discussed. In addition, Board Member, Charmian Gadd publicly thanked Mr Cubirka for his sterling efforts as Business Director of the Conservatorium.

The Board was criticised for not cancelling the Meeting, knowing that there would be no vote, and a lot of people had attended the meeting thinking that votes would be taken.

In answer to this criticism, the Meeting was called by a group of members, as is their right under the Constitution, and once the meeting is called it cannot (according to our legal advice) be cancelled owing to the inflexibility of our Constitution.

Thank you once again to those who attended the Meeting. The Board was thrilled with the many positive messages of support it received from the floor and through comments made following the Meeting.

With the Meeting over, the Board is keen to further apply its efforts to the future growth of CC Conservatorium and to continue to assist and support its wonderfully talented Artistic Director, Patrick Brennan. As a partnership, the Conservatorium and the Board have begun to make many positive changes, including:

- Purchase and implementation of updated accounting programs and the engagement of a professional accountant to streamline our accounts and record keeping.
- The implementation of a skills based Board of highly qualified individuals from diverse career backgrounds.
- New Vision: Inspiring artistry and a New mission statement.
- Review of compliance issues.
- Construction of a Central Coast Conservatorium specific management structure, in accordance with professional advice and discussions for best outcomes.
- Implementation of physical disability specific scholarship.
- Maintaining Tier I status.
- Fee Help (pending).
- Revised Diploma of Music performance modules.
- New system for school enrolments and payment which will encourage more schools to join our schools program.
- Dialogue with Ourimbah Campus, resulting in paid performances for the contemporary music dept.
- Extension of Schools program with an instrument hire option.
- Instrument hire program.
- Refurbishing existing premises; Demountables 1 and 2 (completed) and the Cottage (in progress) are Stage One of this plan.
- Board member, Charmian Gadd and friends - instrument fundraiser concerts. Harpsichord already achieved, double bass instruments also achieved. Concert piano still in the wings.
- Engaging Richard Gill (the Conservatorium's patron) as ex officio to the Artistic Advisory Committee.
- Refocusing on grant opportunities and implementing support and educational programs to ensure successful and appropriate applications (in conjunction with grant application course Sydney University).
- Acquisition of grant funding for the refurbishment of the cottage.
- Sponsorship for .CC Youth Orchestra.
- Acknowledgement of tutors by the title of "teacher" which value adds their position in the CC Conservatorium.

With kind regards

Peter Brandon
President