

Artistic Director/CEO Annual Report 2014

2014 has proven to be another incredible year for me at the Central Coast Conservatorium working alongside our extremely professional and talented teaching staff. This team of teachers, the backbone of our organization, is the key driver of the Conservatorium's programs. These individuals continue to inspire not only our students but also me as their leader. The dedication to students and programs shown by our most valuable resource is truly remarkable and is the reason the Conservatorium continues to be the premier deliverer of comprehensive music education on the Central Coast.

This year was successful on many fronts but also provided challenges along the way. The review of the Conservatorium at all levels including the board, management, teachers, administration and customers by Russell Skelton, lead to the Board decision for a management restructure. This restructure resulted in the redundancy of the Business Director, the instigation of the Program Manager, Operations and Facilities Manager, Finance Manager and Schools Manager positions as well elevating me into the position of CEO. Although this may have come as a shock to many in and associated with the Conservatorium the restructure is a positive move forward for the organization and brings the Conservatorium's management structure inline with best practice models within the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums. This structure is also inline with a standard approach by educational facilities (schools) with the Principal being responsible for all aspects of operation.

The management restructure will propel the Conservatorium into the future. A heightened focus on the artistic side of the business through the new administrative approach will pay off especially with regard to educational functionality, artistic endeavour and customer satisfaction. This new approach by the organization has had a positive impact to the careers of a number of the Conservatorium staff, myself included, but has impacted greatly on Mr. Frank Cubirka the Business Director who's position has been made redundant. Mr. Cubirka served the Conservatorium in the capacity of Business Manager and then Business Director for almost 12 years and is to be commended on his service to the Conservatorium and the accomplishments he achieved during his tenure. I offer my sincere thanks to Frank for the immense amount of time he spent with me when I first took on the role as Artistic Director as well as the knowledge he has passed onto me over the past few years. I wish him all the best in his future career path.

Again in 2014, the Central Coast Conservatorium was successful in delivering comprehensive music education and performance on all fronts. The instigation of the Junk Yard Orchestra Challenge in partnership with the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra and Lend Lease Erina Fair certainly added immense value to the educational program within schools and allowed greater community reach and collaboration. This program has also been critical in the acquisition of a \$10,000 sponsorship agreement for the Central Coast Youth Orchestra with Lend Lease in 2015. I would like to offer special thanks to Ms Rosalie Bourne for her excellent and tireless project management of this program allowing wonderful educational and performance outcomes for all involved. The Conservatorium will continue to deliver this program into schools in 2015.

The Professional Concert Series 2014, funded through ArtsNSW, was a huge success with the Conservatorium delivering 23 professional concerts at venues throughout the Central Coast. These concerts included performances by Conservatorium staff, students and invited artists from Australia and around the world. This concert series with its vast and varied programming highlighted to the community that the Conservatorium is the musical hub for all music in its many forms on the Central Coast.

2014 saw a vast number of student performance opportunities including concert practice, master classes, department concerts, ensembles concerts, Premier Ensembles Concerts, community and professional concerts. Our students performed exceptionally and were excellent ambassadors during community and professional concerts. Highlights include the Opera in the Arboretum (Central Coast Chamber Orchestra), Symphony in the Park (CCYO) and Premier Ensembles Concerts. Another important addition to the 2014

program was the instigation of the Ray Allen Scholarship Final and Awards Ceremony. This combined event provided a forum for our students' achievements to be acknowledged publicly as well as offering our most prestigious competitive scholarship award a large audience for the final selection process.

The Central Coast Conservatorium is an exceptional place to work. This is made possible by the outstandingly dedicated staff both musical and administrative. I would like to thank Ms Lisa Kelly, Operations Co-coordinator, for the extraordinary commitment she gives the Conservatorium on a daily basis as well as the expertise she brings to the administration of the conservatorium's operations. Lisa's role in 2015 will change to Operations and Facilities Manager.

I would like to thank all Department Heads, Teachers, Administration Staff and Volunteers for their continued support of the Conservatorium and its programs. Their commitment is consistently evident on a daily basis and is what ensures the artistic and educational energy and output of this wonderful institution. Without these hard working inspirational individuals and teams the Central Coast Conservatorium would not be the place it is today.

The Conservatorium engaged a number of new teachers in 2014 including:
Jillian Macalpine (Lakes String and Schools Programs)
Diane Gardiner (Woodwind)

We also farewell teachers leaving the Conservatorium in 2014 including:
Paula Scott (Strings)
Warwick Ross (Strings)

Finance Manager's Report

Comments on 2014 Financials:

The end result for 2014 is a profit of \$46,651.

- In comparison to 2013, net income improved in Programme Non Accredited Income & Accredited Courses by \$46,287
- The Schools Programme had a net decrease of \$3,400 but the Instrument Hire income for schools is not included in this.
- Administration and Overhead expenses increased overall by \$68,000 in 2014. However, \$26,630 of this was an adjustment to depreciation from 2013 and prior but written off in 2014 year. It appears an error was made in the calculation formulae of previous Depreciation file spreadsheet from 2013 and prior resulting in this adjustment amount.
- Depreciation in 2014 prior to the adjustment was \$24,000 against a budget of \$12,000.
- The difference in profit between the 2 years is \$12,646 and this can be attributed to:

Variance between Donations & Project/Concert Income V Expenses	\$40,035
Adjustment in 2014 to Depreciation for 2013 and prior years	\$26,630
	—————
	\$ 13,405

Meaning the difference between net profit between the 2 years after excluding the above 2 points is only \$1,000.

The Claire O'Connor Library: The Conservatorium is extremely fortunate to have Chris Kaye attending to our Music Library. His management of this important resource, housed in 35 Mann Street, is ongoing and the Conservatorium is exceedingly grateful for Chris's time that is given as a volunteer.

String Department: Our String Department, under the new leadership of Mr. Peter Garrity, again delivered an outstanding level of tuition to students of all ages and ability with some of the Conservatorium's most high caliber students coming from this department. Although the string program has shown a decline over a five-year period Mr. Garrity continues program building through the Schools Program and the Saturday Strings Program. Bolstering the current number of students is critical to ensuring the longevity of this and other Conservatorium programs and will continue to be a focus area into the future.

Utilising the Children's Music Program (CMP) as a delivery mechanism to the Strings Program was also augmented in 2013 and 2014. Allowing CMP students to hire string instruments at an early age and adding a more comprehensive approach to string tuition in the CMP Program saw more students learning stringed instruments on completion or whilst continuing in the CMP Program.

The addition of 2 Mini Strings Fests to the String Department calendar in 2014 certainly allowed more community outreach for this department. These festivals for young string players engaged students who would not normally enter the conservatorium on a weekly basis. These events successfully highlighted the depth of program and caliber of teaching at the Conservatorium.

Woodwind Department: Mr. David Dallinger resigned as Head of Woodwind in early 2014 and must be commended on the many achievements he delivered for the Conservatorium and the Woodwind Department in this capacity.

New Head of Woodwind, Rosalie Bourne, lead her colleagues to deliver excellent results for many woodwind students at the Conservatorium in 2014. This year her department produced many high caliber musicians with significant growth in student numbers especially in flute tuition.

The woodwind department continues to gain numbers directly from our schools programs. This flow from the Conservatorium Schools Program to 1 to 1 lessons at the Conservatorium is evident. This is also the case with the Super Band program.

Brass Department: Being one of the Conservatorium's smallest departments, allows much scope for improvement in numbers and I am confident the Schools Program and Symphonic Wind Ensemble Program will help elevate numbers in 2015 and beyond. Mr. Aaron Passfield took on the Head of Brass role in late 2014 and is already working diligently to build this program.

Percussion Department: In 2014, Mr. Sean Steele was elevated to the Head of Percussion role. In the short period of time that Sean has been working in this capacity he has managed to build this program significantly, however there is still much scope for greater numbers in this department.

Guitar Department: This department has been static in growth for a number of years. The new appointment of Dr. Guy Strazz in the position of Head of Program Guitar will see increased numbers into the future.

Piano Department: Carl Schmidt, Head of Program, has again shown excellent leadership in this department. The Piano Department is one of the Conservatorium's biggest programs and continued its excellent growth in 2014. Participation in the Ensemble Program is still limited by piano department students owing to the solitary nature of their instrument. This Conservatorium community participation and collaboration continues to be a focus area for this department with some success being achieved in the CCYO.

Vocal Department: The Vocal Department lead by Head of Program Mr. Tim Page also exhibited good growth in 2014. This department holds good numbers of both classical and contemporary vocal students and continues to expand its performance and educational opportunities for its students.

CMS Department: This department has made excellent headway in 2014 under the leadership of Mr. Rodric White. Although this program holds good numbers, there is much room for an increase in enrolments. This program has the potential for excellent expansion owing to the huge market that exists in our community. In 2014 the CMS department delivered important community outreach to tertiary students by giving performances at the University of Newcastle in the second half of the year.

CMP Department: The Children's Music Program continues to be one of the Conservatorium's most important feeders of students to the 1 to 1 teaching program. CMP has shown measured growth in 2014.

The instigation of new approaches to the program structure and content by Head of Program Ms Melissa Lark has enabled a more comprehensive approach to the delivery of the instrumental component of the curriculum and syllabus. This has enabled a more consistent delivery of students to the 1 to 1 program especially into the String Department and is an excellent result for this organisation. Melissa has refined this program even further for 2015.

The introduction of CMP Holiday classes at Erina Fair in 2014 has also proven fruitful with marketing this program to a wider community. The continued development and delivery of this holiday program into the future will see greater numbers and expansion of this program at the Conservatorium.

Musicology Department: Dr Phillip Rutherford's new approach to the Musicianship Course continues to add value to the already educationally strong program.

Although some growth in student numbers has been seen in this department, the program bundling approach to musicianship and ensembles has not continued the excellent growth that was anticipated. This bundling will be reviewed in 2015 to determine its future viability.

Accredited Courses: Certificate 4 and Diploma Courses are an integral part of the highest level of music tuition at the Conservatorium. These courses are delivered to students working at the top echelon and are generally a precursor to tertiary study. In 2014 Mr. Carl Schmidt (Course Co-coordinator) delivered an excellent result with 6 students participating and graduating with Diploma qualifications.

Mr. Schmidt continues Mr. Cubirka's work on acquiring VET Fee Help status. It is anticipated that the Conservatorium will be successful in gaining this status. This will allow further expansion of these courses and student numbers from 2016 onwards.

Schools Program: This program is without doubt the Conservatorium's most important feeder for not only our large ensembles but also individual 1 to 1 tuition. Dr Phillip Rutherford (Co-ordinator) has once again excelled in this position and continues building this program.

Growth in Schools Program

December 2012: 472 (Students)

December 2013: 534 (Students)

December 2014: 737 (Students)

Dr Rutherford and his committed team of conductors and teachers work tirelessly to deliver music education through ensemble rehearsals and tutorials in schools and I thank them for their excellent work in this challenging environment.

The necessity of delivering three-tiered programs within the schools structure continues to be a goal for future achievement. For this goal we will continue to strive until this critical program structure is the norm in Central Coast schools.

The loss of Gosford Public School from the Schools Program for 2015 is a significant blow for the Conservatorium. This loss has instigated a new approach to the schools program delivery and will see excellent benefits to student and their families, the schools and the Conservatorium.

Mr. Rutherford will take on the Schools Manager role in 2015.

Ensembles Program: Building the Ensembles Program has again been a priority in 2014. The continued development of the Primary Wind Ensemble (Super Band) has enabled a wider community outreach into the schools program.

Focus on the Symphonic Wind Ensembles in 2014 and into the future is an effective delivery mechanism of high-level orchestral wind, brass and percussion playing. This program is critical to the ongoing viability of the CCYO and potentially the CCSO. Mr. E-Yang Liu must be commended for his excellent work and commitment in building the Central Coast Symphonic Wind Orchestra (CCSWO). Mr. Liu has not only achieved an injection of students into this program but importantly has helped change the perception of this ensemble within the schools community.

The CCYO again gave excellent performances to both the Conservatorium community (through the Premier Ensembles Concerts) and the Central Coast community. Importantly this orchestra was again responsible for performing three world premiers of newly commissioned works by local composers. These were certainly some of the highlights of the year for the Conservatorium's flagship ensemble, as was performing along side the CCSO in *Symphony in the Park*.

I was delighted to be involved with our Flagship Ensemble in the capacity as conductor. This program continues to evolve but still has room for significant expansion in numbers, especially with in the string sections.

Central Coast Children's Choir: Although growth in this program was limited in 2014 the choirs will be integral for the development of many student musicians in the future. This ensemble gives vocal and piano students the opportunity to participate in ensembles and has also given new opportunity to advanced piano students who are utilised as accompanists for the program.

Concert Hall: 2014 was a positive year for the ongoing quest for a Performing Arts Precinct (PAP) in Gosford. FOPAP (Friends of the Performing Arts Precinct) had numerous meetings with politicians and key personnel in all levels of government. I was glad to be part of these meetings. FOPAP has changed their approach for gaining a PAP and this has generated some very positive outcomes for the Conservatorium.

The new approach positions the Conservatorium with a higher weighting of importance with in the PAP. This has seen a clean delineation of funding pledges at a State Government level and is an excellent outcome for the Conservatorium.

Finally, I would like to thank the Central Coast Conservatorium Board for its ongoing support, as well as the passion, dedication, intellect and time that is injected into this institution on a daily basis.

Yours Sincerely,



Patrick Brennan
Artistic Director/CEO

Achievements 2014

- Delivered music lessons to over 450 students at the conservatorium on a weekly basis.
- Delivered lessons and ensembles to more than 700 students in schools on a weekly basis
- Started delivering music therapy program
- Delivered an even more comprehensive Children's Music Program
- Delivered Children's Music Holiday program at Erina Fair
- Delivered Specialist Music Education to 13 Central Coast Schools through the Junk Yard Orchestra Challenge in partnership with Lend Lease Erina Fair
- Gosford Council Grant for refurbishment of the Cottage
- Commissioned and performed three new compositions for Australian Youth Orchestras through our Composers Concerts Series and hence by years end our Youth Orchestra will have performed three world premiers of Australian Compositions
- 6 students achieved Conservatorium Diplomas
- Eva Li performed as a soloist with the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra
- A number of the CCYO students have participated in the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra Project
- 10 CCYO students participated in the London Symphony Orchestra Project
- 24 professional concerts for our community at this and other venues over the entire Central Coast, hence, the Con is the key producer of concerts of all genres for the central.
- A vast number of student concerts, master classes and performances for not only our students but also other students from the community

Please find attached a schedule of concerts concert practices and master classes that were successfully presented over 2014.

Monday, 20 January 2014	Strings Summer School
Tuesday, 21 January 2014	Strings Summer School
Wednesday, 22 January 2014	Strings Summer School
Thursday, 23 January 2014	Strings Summer School
Sunday, 2 February 2014	Charmian Gadd and Friends Concert
Sunday, 9 February 2014	Charmian Gadd and Friends Concert
Saturday, 22 February 2014	Kariong Eco Gardens (Summer)
Sunday, 23 February 2014	Charmian Gadd and Friends Concert
Saturday, 1 March 2014	Percussion Party
Saturday, 1 March 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Sunday, 9 March 2014	Concertante Ensemble #1 - Dance/Tango
Monday, 10 March 2014	HSC Workshop
Sunday, 16 March 2014	Concertante Ensemble #1 - Dance/Tango
Sunday, 16 March 2014	Beat Box Workshop
Thursday, 20 March 2014	The Art of Jazz Guitar
Saturday, 22 March 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings

Saturday, 22 March 2014	SIPCA Winner Performer Concert
Saturday, 22 March 2014	WW BRASS PERC Concert Practice
Sunday, 23 March 2014	Ensemble Offspring - Three & Under
Sunday, 23 March 2014	Ensemble Offspring - Workshop
Sunday, 23 March 2014	Paul Jarman Choral Workshop
Saturday, 29 March 2014	Opera in the Arboretum
Tuesday, 1 April 2014	Piano Dept Concert
Thursday, 3 April 2014	Guitar Dept Concert
Saturday, 5 April 2014	175th Anniversary of Henry Kendall Cottage Quartet Performance
Saturday, 5 April 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 5 April 2014	WW BRASS PERC Concert Practice
Tuesday, 8 April 2014	Concert Practice Vocal 5-8 (Angela, Tim & Allan)
Wednesday, 9 April 2014	CCSO Rehearsal
Wednesday, 9 April 2014	Concert Practice Vocal 5-8 (Yvette & Michaele)
Thursday, 10 April 2014	Concert Practice Vocal 5-8 (Lilija Sile)
Friday, 11 April 2014	Premier Ensembles Concert #1
Saturday, 12 April 2014	Triple Threat Concert Practice
Wednesday, 23 April 2014	CMP Open Morning Class
Friday, 25 April 2014	ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY Choir singing at Ceremony in Gosford
Sunday, 4 May 2014	Concertante Ensemble #2 - Stringendo
Thursday, 8 May 2014	Steve Smillie & Friends
Saturday, 10 May 2014	Ensembles Concerts
Friday, 16 May 2014	CCYO Junkyard Orchestra Workshop
Saturday, 17 May 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Sunday, 18 May 2014	Cello Diva
Saturday, 24 May 2014	Kariong Eco Gardens (Autumn)
Sunday, 25 May 2014	Kibble Park "Symphony in the Park" (with CCSO)
Thursday, 29 May 2014	CCSO/CCYO Junk Yard Orchestra Recording
Saturday, 31 May 2014	Pearl Beach Showcase Concert (Junior Students)
Sunday, 1 June 2014	Irvine Family Piano Scholarship & Pearl Beach Music Scholarship Concert
Thursday, 5 June 2014	CCSO/CCYO Junk Yard Orchestra Performance at Erina Fair
Saturday, 7 June 2014	Concert Practice for WBP

Saturday, 7 June 2014	Pearl Beach Music Festival
Sunday, 8 June 2014	Pearl Beach Festival - Devine Dvorak
Sunday, 8 June 2014	Pearl Beach Music Festival
Monday, 9 June 2014	D Dallinger Woodwind AMEB Workshop
Saturday, 14 June 2014	Chamber Groups Concert
Saturday, 14 June 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 14 June 2014	Passionfruit
Sunday, 15 June 2014	Mini String Fest
Tuesday, 17 June 2014	Piano Dept Concert
Thursday, 19 June 2014	Guitar Dept Concert
Saturday, 21 June 2014	String Fest
Saturday, 21 June 2014	WBP Student Showcase
Sunday, 22 June 2014	Mid Year Contemporary Vocal Concert
Monday, 23 June 2014	Big Day Out
Monday, 23 June 2014	Concert Practice Vocal
Tuesday, 24 June 2014	Concert Practice Vocal
Wednesday, 25 June 2014	Concert Practice Vocal
Thursday, 26 June 2014	Big Band @ Lizottes
Thursday, 26 June 2014	Concert Practice Vocal
Friday, 27 June 2014	Premier Ensembles Concert #2, Composers' Concert #1
Saturday, 28 June 2014	Adults Concert Practice
Saturday, 28 June 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Sunday, 29 June 2014	Triple Threat OPEN DAY
Sunday, 13 July 2014	Refraction
Saturday, 19 July 2014	Olivia Bell/Annastasia Milwain Diploma Recitals
Saturday, 26 July 2014	Kariong Eco Garden (Winter)
Sunday, 27 July 2014	Charmian Gadd and Friends Concert
Sunday, 3 August 2014	Concertante Ensemble #3 - "Appalachian Spring"
Saturday, 9 August 2014	CC Philharmonia Choir: Ahoy with CC Children's Choir
Saturday, 9 August 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 9 August 2014	Ensembles Concerts: String, Jazz, Saxinettes
Saturday, 9 August 2014	WW Concert Practice
Sunday, 17 August 2014	Sponsors' Concert

Monday, 18 August 2014	Guy Strazz / Rodric White at Ourimbah Campus (Newcastle Uni)
Friday, 22 August 2014	The Art of Improvisation
Saturday, 23 August 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 23 August 2014	Crossroads Festival
Sunday, 24 August 2014	Crossroads
Tuesday, 26 August 2014	Jenny Marie Lang / Rodric White / Raph Strazz at Ourimbah Campus
Friday, 29 August 2014	Trip to SSO: Symphonic Inspiration
Saturday, 30 August 2014	WW Concert Practice
Sunday, 31 August 2014	Michaele Archer - Schubert Serenade
Saturday, 6 September 2014	Chamber Groups Workshop
Saturday, 6 September 2014	Classical Vocal CP + Concert
Saturday, 6 September 2014	Concert Practice Strings
Sunday, 7 September 2014	Giuseppe Zangari & Sally Walker - Opposites Attract
Monday, 8 September 2014	Scholarships
Tuesday, 9 September 2014	Piano Dept Concert
Tuesday, 9 September 2014	Scholarships
Wednesday, 10 September 2014	CCSO Rehearsal
Thursday, 11 September 2014	Guitar Dept Concert
Thursday, 11 September 2014	Guy Strazz / Rodric White at Ourimbah Campus (Newcastle Uni)
Thursday, 11 September 2014	Scholarships (Vocal)
Friday, 12 September 2014	Scholarships
Saturday, 13 September 2014	Scholarships
Sunday, 14 September 2014	Bouddi Variety Concert
Sunday, 14 September 2014	Scholarships
Tuesday, 16 September 2014	Concert Practice Vocal
Thursday, 18 September 2014	Concert Practice Vocal x 2
Thursday, 18 September 2014	Katandra Voices @ Lizottes
Friday, 19 September 2014	Premier Ensembles Concert #3, Composers Concert #2
Saturday, 18 October 2014	Ensembles Concert
Saturday, 18 October 2014	WW Concert Practice
Sunday, 19 October 2014	Bouddi at Bells
Sunday, 19 October 2014	New Sydney Wind Quintet

Wednesday, 22 October 2014	CCSO Rehearsal
Sunday, 26 October 2014	Bouddi Scholarship (Woodwind) Finals Concert
Sunday, 26 October 2014	Mini String Fest II
Tuesday, 28 October 2014	Piano Masterclass with Benjamin Kopp
Friday, 31 October 2014	Ashley Turner & Friends
Saturday, 1 November 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 1 November 2014	Kariong Eco Gardens (Spring)
Saturday, 1 November 2014	Diploma Recitals
Sunday, 2 November 2014	Kids Day Out
Sunday, 2 November 2014	Magnificent Mozart
Saturday, 8 November 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Sunday, 9 November 2014	CC Band Festival
Thursday, 20 November 2014	Gerard Masters - Random Acts of Jazz
Saturday, 22 November 2014	CPS - Concert Practice Strings
Saturday, 22 November 2014	Charmian Gadd Masterclass
Sunday, 23 November 2014	Ray Allen Scholarship Finals/Presentation Day
Monday, 24 November 2014	LSO - 4 day Regional Conservatoriums Workshop
Tuesday, 25 November 2014	CMS - EOY Concert
Tuesday, 25 November 2014	LSO - 4 day Regional Conservatoriums Workshop
Wednesday, 26 November 2014	CCSO Rehearsal
Wednesday, 26 November 2014	LSO - 4 day Regional Conservatoriums Workshop
Thursday, 27 November 2014	LSO - 4 day Regional Conservatoriums Workshop
Sunday, 30 November 2014	Choirs EOY with CMP students
Sunday, 30 November 2014	Charmian Gadd: Fundraiser Recital by Robert Weatherburn
Tuesday, 2 December 2014	CMP EOY Concert
Tuesday, 2 December 2014	Piano Dept Concert
Thursday, 4 December 2014	Guitar Dept Concert
Friday, 5 December 2014	Premier Ensembles Concert #4, Composers Concert #3
Saturday, 6 December 2014	Strings EOY Dept Concert (and Party)
Saturday, 6 December 2014	Year 6 Scholarship Interviews
Sunday, 7 December 2014	Triple Threat End of Year Concert
Sunday, 7 December 2014	EOY Ensembles & Chamber Groups Concert
Wednesday, 10 December 2014	Vocal Concert - Contemporary-Lizottes

Thursday, 11 December 2014	Vocal Concert - Contemporary-Lizottes
Sunday, 14 December 2014	Concertante Ensemble #4 - Basically Baroque