



MEDIA RELEASE - Monday 30 September 2019

\$2Million is ‘music to our ears’

The Central Coast Conservatorium has warmly welcomed the announcement by the NSW Premier that it will receive \$2million to upgrade its building and plan future capital works.

Speaking on behalf of the CCC Board, President Peter Brandon said **the funding would make a huge difference to the capacity of the Conservatorium to provide high quality music education** to its many talented students.

“It’s certainly a wonderful day for the Conservatorium; our board, staff, teachers, students and broader performing arts community,” Mr Brandon said.

“Let’s just say the announcement was music to our ears!”

Mr Brandon explained that the Conservatorium currently operates out of the oldest heritage listed building on the Central Coast, a collection of demountables and a host of halls, rooms and venues across the Coast – anywhere it can find for its ensembles and bands to practice and perform.

He said the **funding injection would allow the Conservatorium to transform its workplace** through sensitive refurbishment, upgrades to bathrooms, the kitchen, teaching and rehearsal spaces and bringing in a new piano and furniture, including seating in the Robert Knox Hall.

Mr Brandon commented that it was **particularly fitting the Government announcement had been made in the Hall on the day of the funeral of Robert Knox** – who co-founded the Central Coast Conservatorium in 1982.

“Had he been alive I have no doubt he would have been delighted to see his work being rewarded and built on in this way,” Mr Brandon added.

In addition to the renovations, refurbishments and new equipment, the grant will also enable master planning for long term future capital works.

“We have a big vision for performing arts on the Central Coast – a combined Conservatorium and small acoustic Concert Hall that will become a vibrant educational and cultural hub for our region.”

Mr Brandon paid tribute to **Conservatorium CEO, Patrick Brennan** and **Vice President, Claire Braund**, for their tireless efforts to secure the \$2Million, **Anthony Kelly of ADG Architects**, for his vision and amazing design work and **Member for Terrigal, Adam Crouch**, for his support.

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