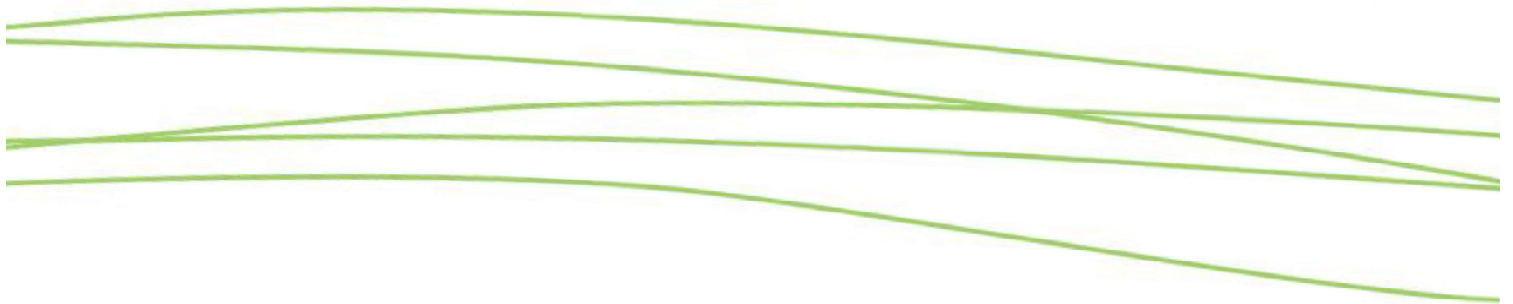




Annual Report

2021



WELCOME

On behalf of the New England Conservatorium of Music, I'm pleased to present our annual report. I received a warm welcome in January and would like to recognise the outstanding contribution of Susanne James, our administration and teaching team, and the Board of Directors for facilitating a smooth transition.

My priority was to connect with our community, reinforce relationships and establish new connections. It was a way to build a 360-degree understanding of our organisation and history, our risks and opportunities, and consider strategies ensuring that high quality music education and music performance are available in our region for many years to come.

The Conservatorium is undoubtedly a success story. We are financially secure, our community are highly engaged, and we have an exceptional team of people. However, as I write, we are experiencing significant disruption because of two factors beyond our control:

1. Ongoing uncertainty resulting from the global pandemic, and
2. Internal relocation of our facilities due to the much-needed Government works to repurpose the Armidale Teacher's College.

The Teachers' College has been our home since opening our doors in 2004. It is an impressive building and a key contributor to our brand and success. Ensuring the College remains accessible and widely used by the community, as well as securing our future alongside the many community and cultural groups who also call the building home has been a key focus.

I've been particularly inspired by our team delivering programs in rural and remote schools. I had the pleasure of travelling with our Chamber Music in Schools program, seeing firsthand enormous need and potential for us to do even more.

Under the direction of Deidre Rickards OAM, Chamber Music in Schools has been presented in 77 schools and reached over 10,000 students in the most remote parts of the New England Northwest. After 17 years, Deidre has stepped back from the program. I would like to acknowledge her vision developing this important initiative that will continue inspiring young people for many years to come.

With solid foundations of our mission, vision, and a team who have demonstrated their ability to adapt and thrive under the most challenging of circumstances, I am excited to play my part helping to position us for long-term, sustainable success.

Chris Clark
Chief Executive Officer

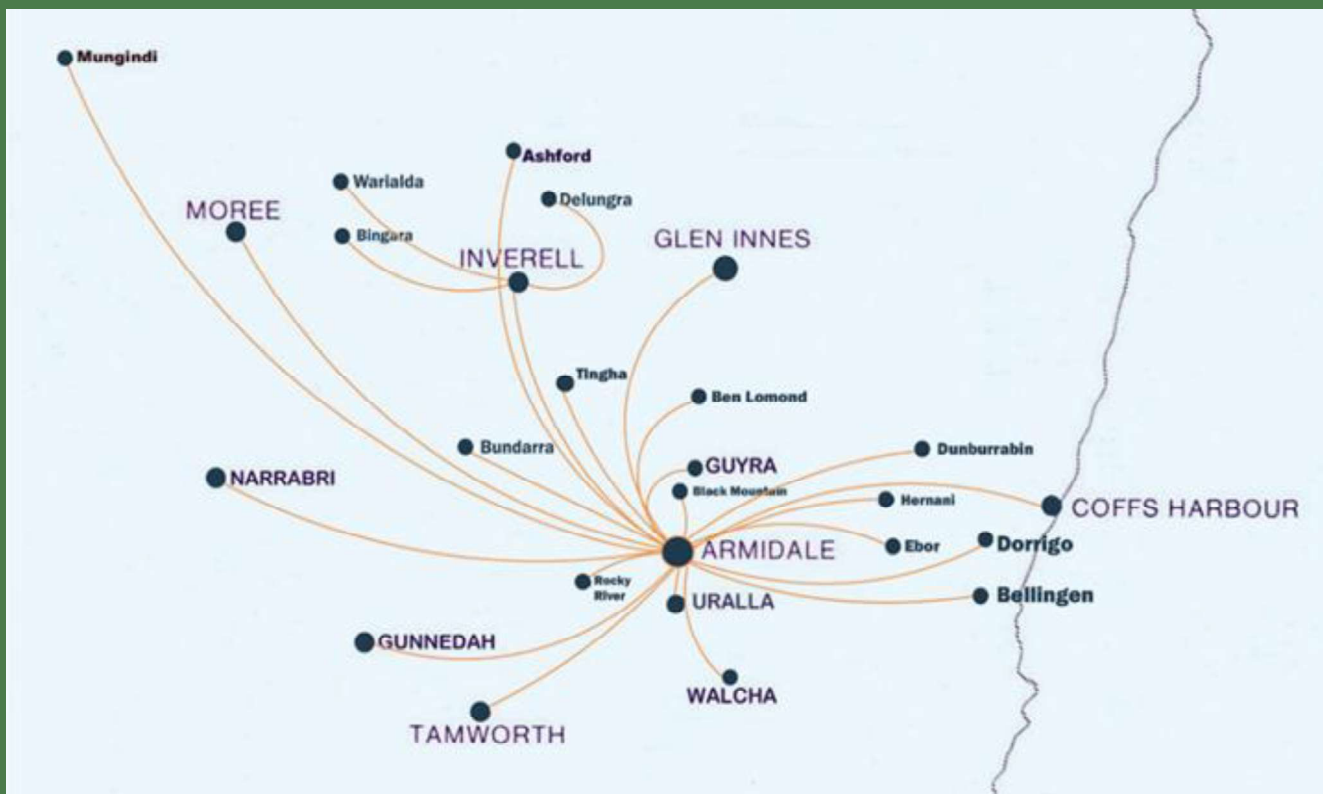


OUR REACH

Resident in the historic Armidale Teachers' College, the New England Conservatorium of Music was founded on the belief that high-quality music education and music performance embedded in a regional community gives it unique cohesion, economic and social capacity.

A significant contributor to the identity of Armidale and the New England, the Conservatorium delivers classroom, ensemble and instrumental programs through a unique "conservatorium without walls" model connecting students across the Northern Tablelands.

The Conservatorium also presents an annual program of events featuring visiting and local artists for audiences in excess of 19,000 – a significant achievement for a regional centre with a population of only 30,000.



OUR IMPACT

We are working to enrich the social, cultural, educational and economic life of people in the New England and beyond – ensuring our community experience the benefits of music in their lives, regardless of geographic, financial, physical or other barrier to participation.

There are far reaching benefits of music as part of a well-rounded education including:

- Personal – self-esteem, confidence, and resilience
- Social – communication skills, co-operation, and teamwork
- Cognitive – language, literacy, numeracy, memory, and concentration.

When planning and evaluating our portfolio of activities, we consider how we can maximise our impact across four domains:

SOCIAL IMPACT

- Promoting equitable access to music and the arts
- Providing fun and engaging experiences
- Reducing barriers to community participation in music and the arts
- Supporting public programming and community-led arts activity.

CULTURAL IMPACT

- Promoting broad-based engagement and participation in music and the arts
- Providing access to quality cultural experiences and performances
- Engaging a diverse community (age, culture, location and equity groups)
- Providing exposure to local, national and international artists and their work
- Supporting local creatives to build their profile and present their work.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

- Providing opportunities for learners to develop skills and experience in music
- Supporting curriculum delivery and music education in schools
- Harnessing music as a vehicle through which to support curriculum delivery
- Leveraging performances and music-based activities to engage learners
- Supporting professional development of teachers and arts professionals.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Fostering equitable and sustainable employment in the creative industries
- Providing venues and support for music and arts-based activity
- Supporting growth and development of the local arts community
- Promoting investment in music and the arts.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

EARLY CHILDHOOD (317 hours)

- Armidale Montessori Preschool
- Drummond Park Preschool
- Galloway Children's Centre
- Kindamindi Inverell
- Little Bear Childcare Cottage
- Mini Minstrels

MUSIC THERAPY (392 hours)

- Aged Care Programs
- Community Programs
- NDIS Programs
- School Support Unit

INSTRUMENTAL (7207 hours)

- 1:1 Tuition
- Foundation Music Program

WORKSHOPS (363 hours)

- ACO String Workshop
- AMEB Preparation Workshops
- ANU Masterclasses
- Bach Festival Masterclasses
- Conducting with Opera Australia
- Bridget Bolliger Masterclass
- HSC Composition Workshop
- HSC Curriculum Workshops
- HSC Music 1 & 2 Bootcamps
- HSC Musicology Aural Workshop
- HSC Performance Workshop
- HSC Sight Singing Workshop
- Luke Byrne Song Writing Courses
- Year 9/10 Music Day

CONCERTS

- Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Choral Concerts
- Opera Australia in Concert
- Studio & Foundation Music Concerts

MUSIC IN SCHOOLS (3855 hours)

- Armidale City Public School
- Armidale Secondary College
- Ben Lomond Public School
- Ben Venue Public School
- Black Mountain Public School
- Glen Innes Public School
- New England Girls School
- Newling Public School
- O'Connor Catholic College
- Presbyterian Ladies College, Armidale
- Rocky River Public School
- Ross Hill Public School
- St Joseph's Primary School, Mungindi
- St Patrick's Primary School, Walcha
- The Armidale School
- The Armidale Waldorf School
- Chamber Music in Schools
- HSC Mentoring Program
- HSC Units of Work
- Teacher Mentoring

ENSEMBLES (775 hours)

CHORAL

- Minisingers
- Cantilena
- Cantilena Chorale
- New England Singers
- New England Singers Chamber Choir
- Side by Side Choir
- Conductor Development Program

STRINGS

- Puddledock Strings
- Boorolong Strings

WIND & PIANO

- Tilbuster Wind Ensemble
- Thunderbolt Ensemble

OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors comprises professional and community representatives who contribute their expertise to support governance and strategic planning.

Gregory Moin – Chairman
Brett Constable – Treasurer
Dr Alana Blackburn
Matt Hobbs

Bronwyn Pearson
Melita Roache
Dr Erica Smith
Peter Westbrook

ADMINISTRATION

Our administrative team oversees day-to-day operations of the Conservatorium, its people and resources to meet the needs of programs and events.

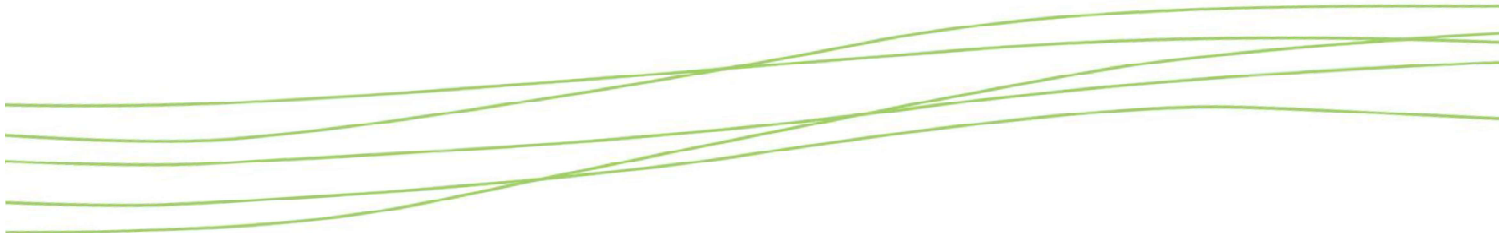
Chris Clark – Chief Executive Officer
Corinne Arter – Program Manager
Edwina Bach – Marketing & Communications Support
Christine Davidson – Music Program Officer
Elisha Hammond – Event Support
Laurence Nussbaumer – ICT Support
Nicky Price – Administration Officer
Sophie Williams – Finance & Administration Manager

ARMIDALE CONCERT COMMITTEE

The Armidale Concert Committee comprises passionate community members committed to presenting high-quality chamber music in the region.

Ken Barnett
Nigel Bell
Robyn Driscoll
Margaret Edgley
Dr Eric Ghosh
Charlotte Low
James McKay

Sue Metcalfe OAM
Dr Keith Power
Robyn Power
Deidre Rickards OAM
Melita Roache
Inge Southcott
Eliza Scott





MUSIC EDUCATORS

We employ a team of outstanding music educators who deliver classroom, ensemble and instrumental programs across the New England region.

Strings

Joanna Fairs-Wu – Head of Strings
Sarah Adeney
Laura Curotta
Robert Jackson
April Kelson
Charlotte Low
Eliza Scott

Wind and Brass

Paul Marshall – Head of Wind & Brass
James McKay
Bruce Myers
Louisa Sindel-Marshall

Keyboard

Sheila Guymer – Head of Keyboard
Nicole Mackson
Louisa Sindel-Marshall

Voice

Sarah Adeney
Jessica Suann

Music Therapy

Fumie Takahashi

Early Childhood & Curriculum

Peta Bale
Nicole Mackson
Eliza Scott
Michael Simpson
Rebecca Smith
Jessica Suann

Choral Conductors

Dr Inga Brasche
Constance Dunham
Nicole Mackson
Phil Oxley
Deidre Rickards OAM
Leanne Roobol
Rowena Teege

Accompanists

Robyn Bradley OAM
Warwick Dunham
Kees Grenyer



PROGRAM PROFILE:

Chamber Music in Schools

Chamber Music in Schools is our inspirational outreach program, conceived by prominent local music educator, Deidre Rickards OAM, who since 2004 has been directing the program.

For many schools in our region, it can be difficult to attract and retain staff with the skills and training to embed high-quality music education alongside demands of other curriculum areas. For rural and remote schools in particular, the cost of bringing professional musicians into classrooms, or transporting their students vast distances to attend concerts is prohibitive.

Chamber Music in Schools gives every student an opportunity to see, hear and meet professional musicians playing a variety of instruments up close and live.

Presentation offers an interactive experience, tailored to student stages of learning. The program is unique incorporating the local teacher as part of each presentation, and together with pre- and post-presentation resources, extends student engagement, and builds confidence of teachers to incorporate music in their classrooms.

With support of the NSW Department of Education and the Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society of Armidale, Chamber Music in Schools has continued to send musicians into the most remote schools – even those with very small student populations – ensuring no child misses out on music as part of their education.

We are grateful to Deidre for her vision and dedication to the program over the last 17 years, and to the many musicians who have shared their passion for classical music widely in the community.



PROGRAM PROFILE:

Music Therapy

Music therapy is a research-based allied health profession where music supports people of all ages to manage their physical and mental health and enhance their quality of life. Each session is tailored to the individual needs and goals of the client.

Music therapy services are rarely available in regional areas, yet 2021 marks our 10th year of continual program delivery. Today our resident music therapist, Fumie Takahashi, works with clients ranging from children with developmental delays through to adults with multiple and complex disabilities and increasingly in aged care settings – an emergent field of research known as creative ageing.

With the support of Armidale Regional Council and our community of donors, this year we formed new partnerships with BUPA Aged Care Armidale, Ken Thompson Lodge, Freeman House, and Armidale Care for Seniors.

Despite challenges presented by COVID-19, programs continued to be delivered on site at the Armidale Teachers' College, in group homes, at Autumn Lodge as well as through the Armidale Secondary College Support Unit and The Ascent Group.

The importance of these programs in regional areas cannot be underestimated, not only benefiting some of our region's most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, but also offering respite and support for a wider network of carers and family members.

OUR RE-IMAGINING

Over the next year, we will open an exciting new chapter in partnership with the Friends of the Old Teachers' College, "re-imagining" the historic Armidale Teachers' College as a thriving community hub. Our plans include:

- Renovating previously abandoned spaces for community use
- Commissioning recreations of the Hinton Collection for our hallways
- Creating a community music listening and reading room
- A new museum dedicated to stories of the old teachers' college
- Creating a vibrant new early childhood music centre
- Reinstating the original 1930s heritage garden design
- A state-of-the-art digital classroom connecting remote students in the region
- A contemporary music hub offering tuition in guitar, drums and pop vocals
- An Indigenous courtyard garden for ceremony, performance and workshops.

The project resulted from extensive community consultation in the first half of 2021, leading us to a placemaking strategy centered on our assets and our people, uniting internal and external stakeholders behind a shared vision.

Alongside major building works by the NSW State Government, the re-imagining underpins our long-term security and success, creating a place that:

TEACHERS WANT TO TEACH Facilities our teachers can be proud of, ensuring we continue to attract and retain the best talent.

STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN High-quality spaces for teaching and learning to increase reach, participation and combat new online competitors.

COMMUNITY WANT TO CONNECT Raising our profile, strengthening our brand and ensuring spaces are safe, welcoming and flexible.

VISITORS WANT TO VISIT Connecting our heritage and local cultural institutions for greater social, cultural, educational and economic impact.

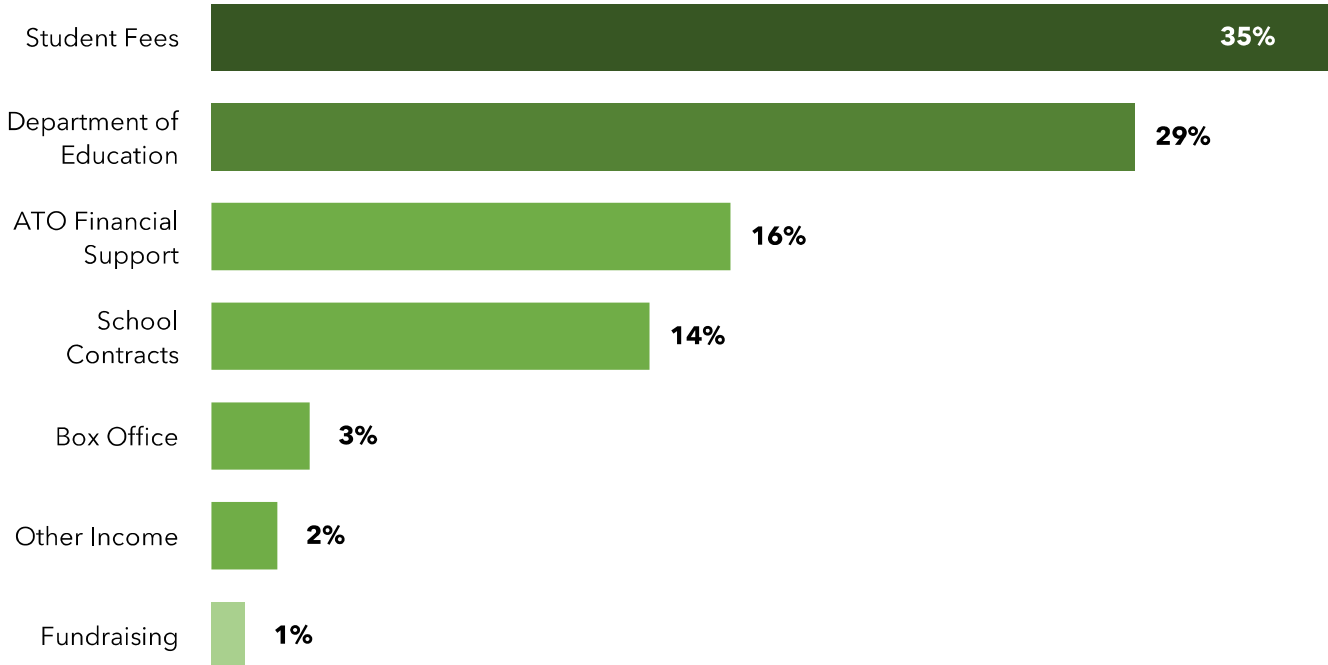
Foundations for the re-imaging were laid during the first half of 2021, with detailed planning, consultations, fundraising, digital and brand strategy development. Subject to final negotiations to secure our tenure through the NSW Government, the transformation work will take place during financial year 2021/22.

WATCH OUR RE-IMAGINING VIDEO:

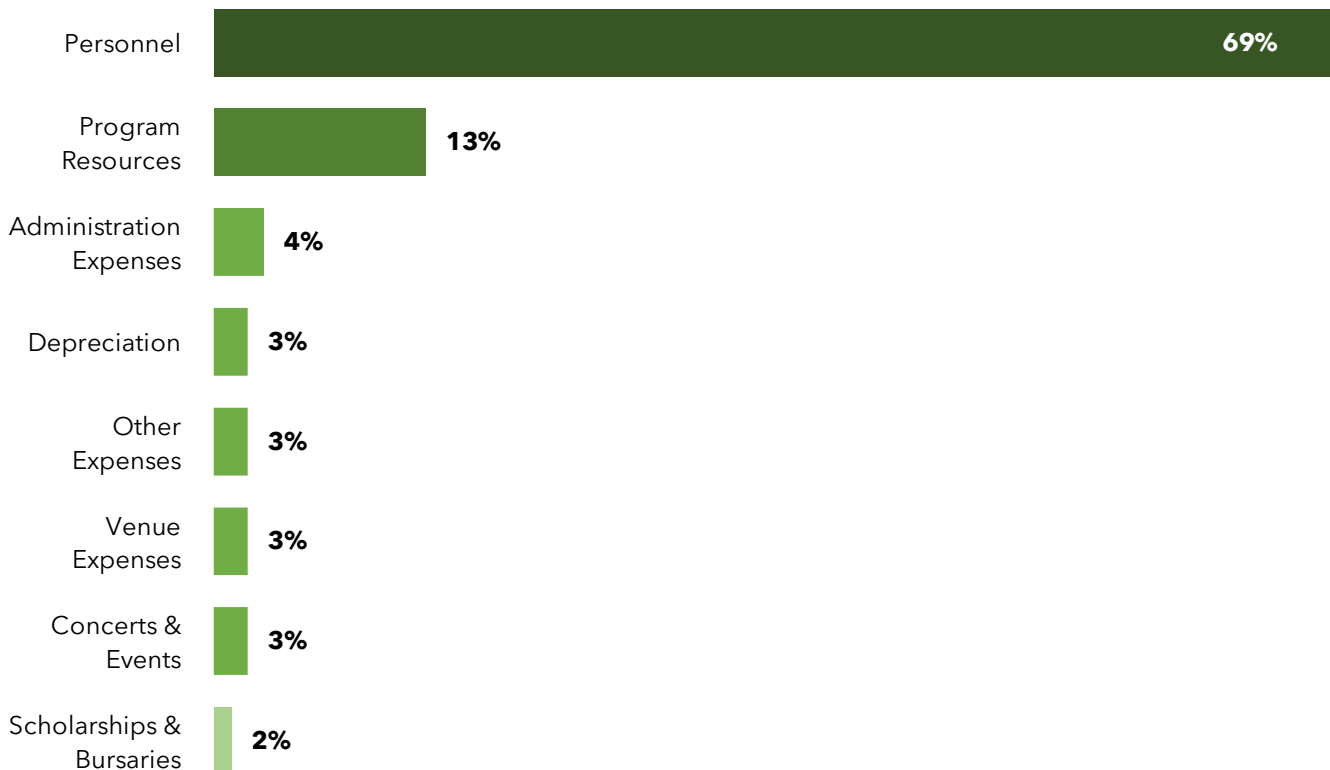
<https://vimeo.com/557878327>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE 20/21 – \$1,740,640



EXPENDITURE 20/21 – \$1,615,902



With thanks...



Education



Aberbaldie
Foundation



ABN 16 104 329 446
02 6788 2135
admin@necom.org.au