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Providing effective corporate governance in any arts organisation has its challenges. There is a need to balance financial viability and growth with the delivery of high quality programs that benefit the community. I am pleased to say that NECOM does seem to manage this delicate balancing act quite successfully.

The first requisite is good and stable corporate governance. The accumulated experience of NECOM Directors across a range of relevant fields never ceases to impress me.

Also, there were no changes of Directors in 2012 and all Directors attended a Strategic Planning retreat addressed by a balance of external and internal professionals. This has helped the Board and management to come up with an innovative but achievable set of strategic objectives that has been endorsed by all Directors.

From a financial perspective 2012 was NECOM’s eighth year of operation and its annual income has increased tenfold in this time. This outstanding rate of growth has been achieved without running a deficit budget or needing to borrow money. However, it requires a strong and diverse income stream to maintain this result.

A harmonious and productive Board and financial stability allows NECOM’s management, administrative and teaching staff to focus on the main purpose of NECOM - namely, delivering high quality music education and performance opportunities to people of all ages throughout the New England.

Under NECOM’s new Director Susanne James and a dedicated staff, these services were delivered to a record number of people in 2012 as outlined in the Director’s report. I wish to thank all involved.

Dr Arthur Rickards OAM
CHAIRMAN
2012 was a year of outstanding achievement as NECOM surpassed many of its strategic goals through the enhancement of its comprehensive core activities, the presentation of outstanding special projects and performances, and the development of marketing and fundraising initiatives.

First up, 2012 saw NECOM update its profile with a new look website and newsletter, the introduction of a new logo and wave stave that were an instant hit (specially the byline ‘music speaks volumes’), and the doubling of coverage in the local radio and print media.

NECOM gratefully receives 30% of its annual funding from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). This assistance was crucial to NECOM’s success in attaining its DEC target KPIs through the delivery of its core suite of K-Year 12 music education programs in 2012, including the introduction of a new Music Therapy Program and a video conferencing pilot program to remote schools.

Alongside its core program activities, NECOM also presented a record number of special projects made possible only through funding from Arts NSW, philanthropic grants and local sponsorship. These special projects included the inaugural New England Chamber Music Festival, the biennial New England Sings!, Music Makers, and the Outreach Music Education Program that saw thousands of students, teachers, remote schools and communities participate in NECOM activities, many for the first time.

NECOM also presented sell-out professional concerts featuring the inaugural Heritage Homestead Concert Series and Avan Yu (winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition), all of which contributed to NECOM’s goal to widen its audience and support base with the 2012 launch of ‘Friends of NECOM’ and the Piano Fund.

Underpinning these impressive artistic and educational achievements throughout the year was NECOM’s astonishing ability to pull that rabbit out of the finance hat. Every year NECOM must find 70% of its revenue in a very competitive environment, mainly though program fees and applications for philanthropic grants, private donations, community sponsorship and other government funding streams. By sailing a very modest and frugal ship, NECOM was able to provide more music education activities to the largest number of participants across the New England region in 2012 than ever before.

The key to NECOM’s great success is a combination of factors - the diversity of programs that bring together remote, public and non-government schools and teachers (early childhood through to K - Yr 12); its unique partnership model with community organisations and private studio teachers; the continuity, commitment and determination of the NECOM Board members and staff; and our unique demographic that values and participates in the region’s cultural life and identity.

On a personal note, I took up the position of Director in late 2011 and 2012 was my first complete year with NECOM - what an exceptional experience it was. I sincerely thank NECOM’s Board, staff members, students and families, donors and sponsors, the music teaching community, and our affiliated partners for making 2012 such a memorable and productive year.

Susanne James
Director
### A summary of NECOM’s 2012 activities and participants in core programs and special projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public school students receiving music tuition</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school students in choirs or ensembles</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-government students receiving music tuition</td>
<td>369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-government students in choirs or ensembles</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NECOM Instrumental Ensembles</td>
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<td>NECOM Choirs</td>
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<td>In-house Concerts</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public concerts</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public schools participating in activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-government schools participating in activities</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bursaries and Scholarships</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Workshops and Masterclasses</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous students in music programs</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with a disability</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>Remote school concerts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote school audiences</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<td>Remotely located students participating in activities</td>
<td>249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development Courses</td>
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<td>Early Childhood students</td>
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<td>Adults receiving tuition</td>
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<td>Eisteddfod Entries</td>
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<td>AMEB and Trinity Exams</td>
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CORE PROGRAMS

Choral Program
Ensemble Program
Indigenous Program
Instrumental Program
K-Year 12 Workshops & Masterclasses
Mini Minstrels Program
Music Therapy Program
Professional Development
Resource Hire
Scholarships and Bursaries
We teach music to children because of its immeasurable capacity and potency to act on the heart, mind, spirit and soul of humanity.

Richard Gill
Choral Program
NECOM’s flagship program, arguably one of the most successful choral programs in NSW, provided 5 tiered choirs (Minisingers, Cantilena, Cantilena Chorale, New England Singers, and New England Singers Chamber Choir) for 100+ K-Year 12 students in 2012. Led by Kodaly trained directors Leanne Roobol, Rowena Tall and Amy Walsh, and accompanists Julia Booth, Ruth Strutt and Robyn Bradley, the choirs rehearse weekly and gave 10 public performances, a one-day tour to Kingstown and Walcha, and formed the nucleus of the New England Sings! primary and secondary choirs. Repertoire promotes contemporary Australian, new world music and improvisation. NECOM choristers achieved an outstanding level of excellence in 2012 with 11 singers winning places though national competitive auditions to the Gondwana Choirs National Choral School.

Ensemble Program
NECOM’s substantial ensemble program provides 20 + sequential ensembles that provide ensemble and performance training for hundreds of students annually, including:
**Beginners:** 4 beginner string ensembles (Cool Crotchets and Mini Minims violins and cellos); Wind Ensemble; Guitar Ensemble; School Wind and String Ensembles in Armidale and Guyra
**Intermediate:** Super Smart Semibreves (Strings); Woodwind Ensemble; Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble; Armidale Youth String Orchestra; Flying Scales String Quartet; Four to a Beat String Quartet;
**Advanced:** Fontegara and Ribatutta Recorder Ensembles; Armidale Youth Orchestra; various string Quartets in Armidale schools.

Indigenous Program
Established in 2010, the indigenous music program was created in partnership with Ross Hill Public School with original “Closing the Music Gap” funding from Arts NSW. This presented mentoring projects by some of Australia’s leading indigenous musicians such as William Barton and The Stiff Gins. The success of the original program led to the establishment of weekly early childhood music classes integrated into the curriculum by music specialist Ros Oliver. In 2012, NECOM provided weekly early childhood music for 160+ K-Year 2 students at Ross Hill Public School in Inverell.

Vocal and instrumental lessons are also provided to indigenous students in Armidale and Inverell through NECOM’s core programs, with a clarinet student commencing a Bachelor of Music performance degree at the Canberra School of Music in 2012.
K-Year 12 Workshops and Masterclasses

Jazz Workshop & Concert: Sat 18 Feb
16 school and adult students honed their improvisation and jazz skills with NECOM teachers Nick Negerevich and Rob Woodhouse, supported by Warwick Dunham (piano), Dan Bale (drums), Francesca Andreoni (double bass) and Benn Tracey (trumpet).

Yr 10 Music Day: Wed 14 March
A flagship annual event for 140 Year 10 school students and teachers from the New England and North West regions that provided 19 separate curriculum workshops in aural, composition, choral singing, African drumming and dance, Indonesian gamelan, Latin-American percussion, ukelele and didjeridu.

HSC Music Seminar: Thurs 15 & Fri 16 March
NECOM, in partnership with AMTA, engaged NSW’s most experienced HSC examiners, teachers and composers for this invaluable...
curriculum event. 100 Yr 11 and 12 students and teachers attended 25 separate workshops in SATB choir and sight singing; aural and musicology; accompaniment; exam technique; essays and vivas; and solo or ensemble performance.

**Brass workshop: Fri 30 March**
12 students from Tamworth, Inverell and Armidale attended this extraordinary workshop on brass technique presented by John Kellaway, Head of Brass from Newcastle University Conservatorium.

**Bach Festival Workshops: Thurs 3-Sat 5 May**
NECOM, in partnership with the New England Bach Festival, presented 7 masterclasses and workshops in Baroque technique and ensemble performance by guest musicians Margaret Caley (violin/viola), Bridget Crouch (violin), Louise King (cello) and Jane Downer (recorder). 32 scholarship and gifted and talented students attended these workshops.

**Composition Workshop: Wed 6 June**
In partnership with AMTA and the Armidale Eisteddfod Society, NECOM presented Australian composer Damian Barbeler to conduct an inspiring workshop for 100 elective music students and their teachers on composition techniques.

**Piano Workshop (Inverell): Sat 10 June**
NECOM Board Director and Music Educator Member Robyn Driscoll presented this popular workshop on piano and exam technique to 35 enthusiastic piano students and teachers.

**Junior Orchestra Workshop & Concert: Wed 27 & Thurs 28 June**
96 Year 3-8 students from Armidale, Barraba, Bellingen, Dorrigo and Inverell attended this intensive 2-day workshop that provided 52 separate sessions and tutorials in ensemble performance including Australian and other repertoire.

**Woodwind Boot Camp & Concert (Inverell): Sat 21 July**
Presented by acclaimed flautist James Kortum (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) and NECOM teachers Nick Negerevich and Wendy Champion, this bootcamp offered 7 separate workshop sessions attended by 13 woodwind students from Armidale, Inverell, Tingha and Uralla.

**Masterclasses with David Miller & Julia Ryder: Fri 20 & Sat 21 July**
4 masterclasses attended by 22 students presented by David Miller OAM (Chair of Ensemble Studies Sydney Conservatorium) and cellist Julia Ryder (Charisma Trio) in ensemble and exam technique.

**Jazz Workshop with the Craig Scott Jazz Quintet: Fri 3 August**
3 separate workshops with musicians from the Craig Scott Quintet (Chair, Jazz Studies, Sydney Conservatorium) for 30 school and adult jazz students.

**Recorder Workshops: Sat 18 & Sun 19 August**
Hans-Dieter Michatz (Sydney Conservatorium) presented 2 masterclasses, 2 ensemble workshops and private lessons to 20+ gifted and talented recorder students, many of whom were preparing for their HSC exams.

**New England Sings! workshops: May-October**
18 regional workshops were presented in Armidale and schools in Inverell, Kingstown, Tamworth and Walcha, attended by 900 school students and their teachers.

**Cello Masterclass: 14 October**
Presented by Patrick Murphy (University of Qld School of Music) with performances by 3 gifted and talented scholarship students.
Music is the fundamental art for children. It is essential to their learning, concentration, aural perception and the way they comprehend the abstract. It allows the child to develop all the faculties that assist learning later on.
Mini Minstrels Program
260 children attended early childhood ‘music in the lap’ classes for pre-school children and parents at NECOM Armidale, Inverell and Walcha. Classes were offered for Babes & Toddlers, Two & Three year olds, and families. Mini Minstrels establishes the key music skills and concepts (beat, rhythm, tempo, pitch and melody, dynamics, form and tone colour) required for children to develop their musical interests, innate potential and creative expression through singing, listening, playing instruments, moving creatively.

Foundation Music classes for K-Year 2 are offered at NECOM, Ross Hill PS, and St Patricks at Walcha. Classes are designed so children can progress easily into a choir or learning an instrument as they can already understand music notation, sing in tune, have rhythmic acuity and possess good co-ordination skills.

Music Therapy Program
Following the success of AccessFest in 2011, and in partnership with The Ascent Group and Pedal Early Childhood Intervention, NECOM engaged music therapist Natalie Nugent to establish a Music Therapy Program for children and adults with a variety of disabilities in 2012. This covered:
2. Pedal Early Childhood Intervention Music Makers for individual sessions, group music therapy, assessments and consultancy work for children from 0–5 years and their families.
3. Growing Through Song: A 6-week project for students in the Support Unit at Armidale High School.
4. Consultancy and Assessment in Armidale, Narrabri, Moree and Glenn Innes.
5. Consultancy and professional development for The Ascent Group clients and staff.

NECOM would not have been able to establish this vital and unique music service without the funding support from the Myer Foundation for Music Makers, the Armidale Dumaresq Council and Armidale City Bowling Club. Thank you.
Professional Development
In partnership with AMTA and the Kodaly Association, NECOM presented 10 professional development courses to school and studio music teachers in Choral Conducting; Kodaly Early Childhood curriculum; Baroque performance techniques; Chamber Ensemble Performance Practice; Preparing for piano exams; The Psychology of Music; Dalcroze; Jellybeans K-Yr 2 music curriculum; and Stage 5-6 Composition.

Resource Hire
**Instruments**
NECOM provides best quality instruments for hiring (starting from $40/term) to give families and students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument when the initial cost of buying an instrument is prohibitive. Over 85 instruments were hired to students enrolled in NECOM programs, to students of NECOM Music Educator Members and to the general public (external) in 2012. The NECOM instrument library includes the following instruments:
- Violin, viola and cello (full and fractional sizes)
- Flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon
- Trumpet, French horn, trombone

**Studios**
NECOM hires out teaching studios at very low rates (starting at a discounted rate of $2/hour) for Music Educator Members and the general public.

Scholarships and Bursaries
Offered to NECOM and Music Education Member students annually. 38 DEC funded scholarships for gifted and talented students were awarded for masterclasses and workshops to hone performance skills for HSC exams, higher level AMEB and Trinity exams and auditions. 21 DEC bursaries and 20 Aberbaldie Foundation bursaries were awarded to students from low income families to cover 50% of fees. 12 choral bursaries funded by the *New England Sings!* concerts in October 2010 were awarded (six in Armidale and six in Inverell) to cover 100% of program fees.
I love the idea that ANY CHILD in their school can be part of an extravaganza like New England Sings! My children and I are incredibly fortunate to be part of NECOM at this time in our lives.

Sara McNeall, St Marys Primary School
SPECIAL PROJECTS

New England Chamber Music Festival

New England Sings!

Outreach Music Education Project: Chamber Music in Schools

Pedal Early Intervention Music Therapy Project: Music Makers
The inaugural New England Chamber Music Festival was an outstanding musical success, attended by 43 primary and secondary students from Armidale, Bellingen, Inverell, Tamworth and Warialda. The Festival was the first of its kind in the region, specifically designed to give Year 4-12 school students an invaluable experience in learning and performing chamber music repertoire.

Generously funded and supported by Arts NSW and Musica Viva, the program was devised by NECOM Program Manager Corinne Arter with invaluable assistance from AMTA (Armidale Music Teachers Association) members Cathy Archer, Chris Garden, Bruce Myers and Stuart Pavel.

The Festival’s impressive artistic success was due to the outstanding professional musicians engaged as tutors - The Flinders Quartet: Erica Kennedy (violin), Matthew Tomkins (violin), Helen Ireland (viola) and Zoe Knighton (cello); David Griffiths (clarinet); Paul Goodchild (trumpet); Maggie Ferguson (tango specialist); and Dalcroze specialists Sandra Nash and Madeline Hagon, ably assisted by NECOM teachers Marian Barford, Wendy Champion, Warwick Dunham, Alex Hiew and Charlotte Hayes.

Over four days of intensive tutorials, workshops and lunchtime concerts, the Festival immersed the young musicians in the world of chamber music - an opportunity that most do not have until they become tertiary music students. The fifth day of the Festival presented 3 free public concerts at the Armidale Town Hall attracting over 400 enthusiastic audience members who praised the outstanding quality of the music and professional presentation by all ensembles.

**New England Sings!**

*New England Sings!* is a biennial event that is the largest and most ambitious music showcase for schools and community musicians in the New England region. It exemplifies NECOM’s inspirational leadership within the broad community and its ability to be a catalyst for innovative and creative music making at the highest level.

Generously funded by Arts NSW, Armidale City Rotary Club and ADFAS (Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society Armidale Inc.) *New England Sings!* brought together 11 primary schools and 10 secondary schools from Armidale, Bellingen, Glen Innes, Inverell and Tamworth; AMTA; The Armidale Youth Orchestra; members of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra, Armidale City Band and Armidale Pipe Band, to form a mass 900 voice choir and 75 piece orchestra.

18 months in the making, *New England Sings!* was created by Program Manager Corinne Arter and supported by AMTA. It included the commissioning of two new choral works from Australia’s emerging composers Joe Twist (*Dreamers of the Day*) and Dan Walker (*The Bird King*); the engagement of guest conductor Lyn Williams OAM; and an extensive school support program of workshops, curriculum resources, professional development and transport subsidies for remote schools.

The outstanding artistic success of the project was due to the six-month rehearsal schedule where a team of outstanding choral conductors and accompanists gave 18 regional workshops to schools in Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Kingstown, Tamworth and Walcha.

The project culminated in two public concerts on Sunday 28 October at Lazenby Hall. The capacity audiences of 1600 gave rousing standing ovations for an unforgettable musical achievement.
Outreach Music Education Project – Chamber Music in Schools
July 2011-June 2012

Due to a generous grant from the Ian Potter Foundation, this special project funded an extensive touring program that brought live music performance and teaching resources to approximately 4000 primary and secondary students throughout the New England and North West regions. During 2011-2012, Chamber Music in Schools toured a trio of NECOM teacher musicians to over 60 schools from as far afield as Mungindi to Willow Tree, and for many students it was the first time they had seen real instruments and heard musicians play live!

The project’s success was in its hand-on engagement with students and teachers in their own classroom (particularly those from remote schools) and it achieved what no other music organisation can afford to do – visit remote schools with tiny enrolments located in isolated, low socio-economic areas. A new dimension of the project was added when the Trio visited Burren Junction PS (45 students) and their performance was video conferenced to Rowena PS (8 students).

The project’s enduring legacy lies with the gift of curriculum teaching resources written by Deidre Rickards that ensure music learning will continue to be supported long into the school's future.

NECOM gives sincere thanks to the NECOM musicians and specially to Deidre Rickards whose passionate support and advocacy has seen this project achieve such impressive outcomes.

The opportunity for students in isolated small schools to view a live musical performance of the quality of the NECOM presentations is virtually nil. Congratulations upon an outstanding presentation, excellent program and wonderful initiative!

Ebor PS Principal Jennifer Winkel

Our deep gratitude for the opportunity our students had to take part via the connected classroom in the concert. It was the first opportunity Rowena has had in 5 years to ‘see’ live music.

Rowena PS Principal Andrew Rodgers

Now that the children have seen and heard the trio in such a friendly atmosphere, and truly experienced the ‘music of friends’, we will have a great building block to assist in their future learning. It has certainly been a positive experience in their music curriculum. And thank you for the terrific resource pack and great CD – this will help us deliver better music lessons to our classes.

Cathy Southgate & Olga Dawes, Glen Innes PS

Pedal Early Intervention Music Therapy Project: Music Makers

With generous funding from The Myer Foundation, the Armidale Dumaresq Council and Armidale City Bowling Club, NECOM established Music Makers (an early intervention music therapy program for children with disabilities and their families) in partnership with Pedal Early Childhood Intervention Services – the first of its kind in the New England area.

Music Makers worked with 16 families, three from an indigenous background and two where English was the second language. The project included individual assessment of each child’s current needs to establish an individualised program and goals focussed on the development of communication, social, physical and sensory skills. Music Makers provided learning opportunities for the parents and support workers to develop skills in non-verbal play with their child that could be used in other settings, such as the home. This included music activities such as instrument playing and turn-taking, learning new songs, improvisation, music and movement, and relaxation techniques.
67 concerts were presented by NECOM in 2012. Alongside its extensive in-house concerts featuring students in the choral, instrumental and ensemble programs and special project concerts, NECOM embarked on an ambitious goal to present professional high quality concerts that increased NECOM’s community profile and broadened its audience base of supporters.

**NECOM Concerts**

NECOM’s comprehensive and busy program of in-house concerts provided important performance experiences and training to K-Year 12 and adult students, from beginner through to advanced levels. In 2012 NECOM individual students and ensembles presented 16 Solo Soirees, Ensemble, Choral and Christmas Concerts. NECOM’s expertise in presenting concerts was also shared through productive partnerships with AMTA, the Armidale Eisteddfod Society (to present Choral Night, Band Night, and Composition Night) and Armidale Youth Orchestras.

NECOM also presented 21 concerts to the public (free or gold coin donation) at various community venues including Armidale and Inverell Town Halls, UNE Lazenby Hall, Inverell Uniting Church, Inverell Campus, and NERAM (New England Regional Art Museum).
Avan Yu Piano Recitals
Inverell: Tues 18 September
Armidale: Wed 19 Sept

NECOM presented Avan Yu, Winner of the 2012 Sydney International Piano Competition, in two piano recitals that received comprehensive media coverage across the region, resulting in very good audience attendance in Inverell and a sold-out house in Armidale. NECOM’s goal to expand its regional audience base through the presentation of an exclusive and prestigious professional concert was a great success and also provided an opportunity to launch the Piano Fund to raise money to purchase two pianos for ensemble studios.

Australian Youth Orchestra Brass Quintet Residency
Fri 10-Sun 19 August

NECOM continues a long partnership with the Australian Youth Orchestra Regional Residency program by hosting an AYO ensemble each year. These residencies make an invaluable contribution to NECOM’s instrumental tutorial, workshop and concert programs in the region and in 2012 the AYO Brass Quintet comprised Australia’s most outstanding brass musicians from the flagship Australian Youth Orchestra.

NECOM presented 3 public concerts in Inverell, Glen Innes and Armidale; two school concerts; a number of tutorials and workshops with the Inverell Sapphire City Band, the Armidale Youth Orchestra and the Armidale City Band; and tutorials with visiting AYO professional tutors AOBO trombonist Brett Favell and composer Phil Jameson.

Altogether, the Quintet made a significant impression on our young brass players at the Conservatorium, and also on the wider community through their concerts and workshops. NECOM thanks the Australian Youth Orchestra for providing us with this wonderful program in 2012.

Graduation Ceremonies - UNE
Fri 23 & Sat 23 March; Fri 30 & Sat 31 March
Fri 28 & Sat 29 Sept

NECOM provided live music for six Graduation Ceremonies in 2012. These unique and prestigious events are set in the Booloominbah grounds and require professional musicians with extensive experience to perform in a setting open to the weather! NECOM engaged outstanding staff, musicians, and teachers to perform the traditional graduation ceremony music including processionals, anthems and hymns.

Heritage Homestead Series
String Theory @ Chevy Chase: Sun 13 Oct
The Tablelands Trio @ Ohio Homestead: Sun 21 Oct
Elena & Friends @ Petersons Great Hall: Sun 4 Nov

NECOM’s inaugural Heritage Homestead Series had sell-out concerts and was an outstanding success. Based on the concept of presenting chamber ensembles in the New England’s prestigious private homesteads (Chevy Chase, Ohio Homestead in Walcha and The Great Hall of Petersons Winery), the series featured NECOM musicians and acclaimed guest artists including Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin. With generous sponsorship from the Community Mutual Group, the Series received national ABC radio recognition and extensive promotion in the print media. The series elevated NECOM’s reputation as a presenter of professional high quality concerts and attracted many new supporters from across the region.

Special Projects
The New England Chamber Music Festival presented 2 free lunchtime concerts and 3 free public Chamber Ensemble Concerts at Armidale Town Hall to audiences numbering 490. New England Sings! presented two sell-out public concerts at Lazenby Hall to 1600 audience members. The Chamber Music in Schools project presented over 120 concerts in school classrooms across the region to approximately 4000 students between 2011-2012.

“The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is very close to the centre of a nation’s purpose...and is a test of the quality of a nation’s civilisation.” John F Kennedy
AFFILIATED PARTNERS

Ardmide Music Teachers Association
Ardmide Symphony Orchestra
Ardmide Youth Orchestras
AMTA (Armidale Music Teachers Association) Annual Report

The Armidale Music Teachers Association (AMTA) is an organisation of secondary music teachers from Armidale’s six secondary schools. The aim of the association is to promote music education in the wider community and AMTA affiliated with NECOM in 2005. In 2012 AMTA and NECOM worked together to present:

- Year 10 Music Day
- HSC Music Workshops
- The Armidale Eisteddfod
- New England Sings! concerts

The Year 10 and HSC Music days have been running in Armidale for many years as an initiative of AMTA. These days attract a large number of students from across the region and expose students to a variety of musical activities that may not necessarily be available in their own schools and communities.

AMTA continued to support the Armidale Eisteddfod, particularly with the band and choral events as well as sponsoring and organising the composition event and presentation ceremony. We were fortunate to acquire the services of Australian composer Dan Walker as adjudicator in 2012 and his feedback to participants was greatly appreciated.

2012 saw the second biennial New England Sings! concerts at Lazenby Hall. AMTA was pleased to be able to assist NECOM with the organisation and running of this event. AMTA continues its role as an advocate for music education in the region and across Australia. In 2012 AMTA members participated in a forum organised by the NSW Board of Studies to examine the proposed National Curriculum in the Arts. AMTA continues to be concerned about the direction of this curriculum and was encouraged that the Board of Studies appears to support our assertion that the current document lacks rigour and that the outcomes have become meaningless.

Stuart Pavel, AMTA

Armidale Symphony Orchestra

The Armidale Symphony Orchestra is comprised of 40+ community musicians, including NECOM teachers, and rehearses weekly in the NECOM Orchestral Room. The ASO enjoyed a most successful year in 2012 with four outstanding concert performances at Lazenby Hall and NEGS. The ASO partnered with the Armidale Music Foundation this year and many members joined the orchestra for NECOM’s New England Sings! in October.

The 2012 concerts presented varied and challenging programs led by conductors Paul Holley, Bruce Menzies, Errol Russell and Graham Maddox. The repertoire was very warmly received by the large audiences and included Haydn’s Harmoniemesse; Wagner’s stirring Siegfried Idyll, Mozart’s Symphony No 30 and 41, Beethoven’s Coriolan Overture, Schubert’s Symphony No.6 and Dvorak’s Eighth Symphony.

Sadly in 2012, long serving ASO member and leading French horn player Kerry Hawkins passed away. The Orchestra set up an award to honour the memory of Kerry. Long serving conductor and ASO member Wendy Huddleston became ill during the year and the ASO wishes her well and honours her long term commitment to the orchestra, to music in Armidale and to music education. A special function was held in November to honour the contribution by Errol Russell as concertmaster, conductor and concerto soloist for many years. Armidale and the ASO are privileged to be the recipient of Errol’s dedication and devotion to music and music education, specifically, to his outstanding leadership of the orchestra.

David Gee, ASO
Armidale Youth Orchestras

The AYO had over 100 enrolments in its three ensembles, the Armidale Youth String Orchestra (AYSO), the newly reinstated Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble (AYWE) and the Armidale Youth Orchestra (AYO). NECOM senior woodwind teacher Nick Negerevich was appointed as conductor of AYWE, assisted by NECOM’s Rob Woodhouse.

The AYSO conducted by April Kelson, finished 2012 with a large, well trained and experienced cohort with many auditioning successfully for progression to the AYO. April Kelson devised an integrated pedagogical program to develop rehearsal and sectional skills, orchestral etiquette and behaviour, and a scaffolded repertoire that also trialled a rotation of leaders.

With the progression of senior players to tertiary study in 2012, AYO returned to having a younger profile of players that influenced conductor Warwick Dunham’s choice of sequential repertoire to build orchestral skills, build a strong rehearsal ethos in this ensemble, develop familiarity with the canon of orchestral music within the technical constraints of the ensemble, including the arrangement of well-known works for the current AYO instrumental resources.

Performance and training opportunities were varied and challenging, including the Sawtell Music Camp, the annual AYO Garden Party hosted by arts benefactor Rosemary Leitch, the Armidale Eisteddfod, and the end of year Gala Concert.

New England Sings! was the major event of the year with AYO performing the challenging Australian commissions very well. Workshopping contemporary Australian music is an important strand of the program.

2012 saw AYO invest in tubular bells to add to the concert xylophone and tam tam purchased at the end of 2011, and to invest in professional development for its conductors and additional resources, music and tutors.

AYO boasts a robust membership with active parental involvement and commitment in its programs and events and it derives great benefits from the partnership programs and extension opportunities offered by NECOM.

The AGM was held in October with Cathy Archer continuing as President, Berenice Scott as secretary and Neil Glenn as treasurer. The hard working conductors, members, life members, NECOM staff and parent committee are to be commended on their efforts in overseeing the continued musical growth of the organisation.

Cathy Archer, President
DONORS & SUPPORTERS

ININAUGURAL FRIENDS OF NECOM

Robyn & Pat Bradley
Syna Choct
Dr John Clifton-Everest
Roger & Rosalind Epps
Murray & Barbara Giles
John & Robyn Hadfield
Amanda & Sebastian Hempel
Susanne James & Malcolm McClintock
Barbara Jones
Rosemary Leitch
Anne Matley
Professor Peter McKeown
Professor William Noble
Keith & Robyn Power
Jennifer and Colin Sholl
Jeff Siegel & Ms Diana Eades
Dr Karin von Strokirch
Katherine & Greg Tighe
Graham & Jan Wyles

Brian and Priscilla Connor
2012 opened with very substantial and generous support from the Inverell Shire Council when it doubled the funding grant for 2011-2013. This support was given in response to a submission from NECOM Chairman Arthur Rickards and Director Susanne James seeking additional financial assistance to cover an ongoing deficit. In return, NECOM will establish a Management Committee led by Councillor Jacki Watts to conduct a review of the campus to devise new strategies to ensure future growth and financial viability.

Michèle Jedlicka was appointed as the new Inverell campus coordinator in October 2011 and ably led the campus during 2012.

The NECOM Inverell Advisory Committee chaired by Councillor Jacki Watts met 6 times during the year with a recruitment drive for additional volunteers held in February and August that met with some success. On-going members include Neil Eigland, Chris Newbigen (secretary), Helen Robinson, Geoff Croft, Barbara Wigg and Ros Oliver with occasional attendees Peta Blyth and Wendy Champion.

NECOM Inverell studios were regularly hired by Stephanie Marshall (drama classes), Helen Robinson (Music Makers program for adults with disabilities) and Peta Blyth for voice instruction. The main studio was hired on three afternoons over the course of the year for piano recitals by educator members.

### Teaching

2012 welcomed new teachers Colin McKinlay (contemporary drumming), Georgie Ostenfeld (cello) and permanent woodwind teacher Wendy Champion expanded her teaching at Ross Hill PS to Bingara and Warialda High Schools. In late 2011, string teachers Sarah and David Matthews, brass teachers Lisa and Gergely Malyusz (opting to return as private teachers from Term 2), guitar teacher Doug Mather, and drumming teacher Jamie Cracknell resigned to pursue careers away from Inverell.

To generate new enrolments NECOM established the STARZ Show Choir in Term 2 that attracted 27 new students. Publicity around the launch was extensive with special support given by Inverell Deputy Mayor Paul Harmon. Led by outstanding teachers Ruth Strutt, Miranda McHatton and Stephanie Marshall, STARZ was a great success with students giving two performances in 2012.

The partnership with Ross Hill PS continued as the most successful of NECOM Inverell’s programs with its substantial funding for K-Yr 2 Early Childhood classes and large number of woodwind student enrolments. Music teacher Geoff Croft’s commitment to NECOM’s programs is crucial and we thank him most sincerely for his ongoing support.

Ros Oliver (Early Childhood) continued teaching the popular Mini Minstrels pre-school program as well as K-Year 2 classes at Ross Hill PS. Many new instruments were purchased in 2012 and Ros Oliver attended 2 professional development workshops with early childhood teachers in Armidale.

Michèle Jedlicka, Co-ordinator
Events

Meet The Band: 17 March
Sapphire City Band concert for Mini Minstrels from NECOM and Ross Hill PS.

Piano Workshop: 2 June
Presented by Robyn Driscoll, this popular workshop was attended by 30 students and 5 local piano teachers.

Woodwind Bootcamp: 21 July
With a grant from CASP, flute specialist James Kortum presented this workshop for 13 students, including a public concert given coverage by the Inverell Times.

AYO Brass Quintet: 11 August
Workshop for 10 students from Wee Waa, Narrabri and Inverell, including members of the Sapphire City Concert Band.

AYO Brass Concert: 11 August
Taylor-Uniting Church Inverell with 50 concert goers, gold coin donation.

Avan Yu Recital: 18 September
Avan Yu, winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition presented a concert with 175 in attendance, followed by a popular Q&A session with students. The concert was presented with the help of 4 students and volunteers Michelle McLachlan, Barbara Wigg, Helen Robinson, Philip Wigg, Ros Oliver, Ross Jacobs and Arthur MacAlpine.

East Rotary Club Performance: 23 October
Woodwind students Nick Hawkins, Josh Hawkins and Kate Hackney and cello student Lily Rolfe perform for the Inverell East Rotary Club at the Inverell Town Hall.

Drums Try-out Day: 11 November
Presented by drums instructor Colin McKinlay that resulted in 4 new students.

STARZ Show Choir: 28 June & 29 Nov
Performances to family and friends at Inverell Campus.

Cello Concert: 13 December
Georgie Ostenfeld and cello students present Xmas concert at Campus.

Mini Minstrels Concert: 14 December
Ros Oliver’s Mini Minstrels sing for the McLean Retirement Village.
NECOM’s Music Educator Member program is unique to NSW regional conservatoriums and it provides many opportunities for private studio teachers and their students to take up benefits and activities on offer from NECOM. These include:

- Scholarships and/or bursaries for students (NECOM awards over $3000+ annually)
- Masterclasses and workshops for students
- Free concert venues for studio concerts, examinations (including administration support)
- Referrals to parents or community members seeking music lessons
- Discounted hire fees for teaching studios at Armidale and Inverell campuses
- Employment opportunities to teach or perform in NECOM projects and events
- Access (free or discounted) to NECOM masterclasses and workshops
- Advertising – free inclusion in NECOM’s quarterly newsletter ‘Take Note’ distributed to 500+ individuals and organisations + promotion on the NECOM website
- Access (free or discounted) to NECOM professional development workshops and events, including open rehearsals or sessions with visiting guest artists

ARCHE, Cathy
B.Mus, BMus (Hons), BA (Melb) (Piano) Voice
Pop/Opera Singer, pianist, accompanist
Mob: 0412 692 459
music@musicarmidale.com

BUTCHER, Margaret
BMus, BMus (Hons), LMusA
Violin & Viola teaching, beginners to advanced.
Mob: 0415 219 433
stringsmargaret@gmail.com

CHAMPION, Wendy
Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone
Inverell & Warralda
Mob: 0438 287 582

CLARKE, Zana
B.A (Melb), B.Mus, BMus, Dip.Ed, UNE, AMus.A (Violin)
Recorder & Violin specialist to all levels and ages
Ph: 0420 722 205
zana@orgheusmusic.com.au

CUSACK, Sister Margaret Therese T.Mus.A;
ATCL; A.MusA; MMTA, MIMT
Piano/Musicianship - (all grades)
Singing – Beginners, AMEB and Singing for Leisure' Moree Only
Ph: 0420 602 750
margaretcusack17@bigpond.com

DEBUS, Sofia
B.Mus, BMus, Dip.Ed, A.L.Mus.A
Accredited, Suzuki Talent Ed. Assn. of Australia (Violin)
Ph: 0411 436 194

HARPLEY, Robert
Cert IV Assess & WLap Train
Beginner’s, Intermediate & Remedial Guitar and Ukulele
Mob: 0404 443 879
robyphy@iinet.net.au

HAYES, Charlotte
Mus Bac (Perf); Mus Bac Hons; LRSM; FTCL; Dip Teaching;
Cello teacher
Ph: 0466 900 378

HILL, Jennifer
MTA NSW Accredited Piano/Theory/Musicianship
All Grades. Inverell only.
Ph: 0472 3888

HUDDLESTON, Wendy
AMusA, LMus, FFCSME, DSME, Accompanist
Conductor, Accompanist/ Coach; Examination prep.
Ph: 0472 8514 Mob: 0411 436 194
www.huddleston.com.au

HINCH, Judy
Celtic Harp
Ph: 0472 4376
Mob: 0428 989 765
judyhinch@northnet.com.au

KELSON, April
BA, BMus (Hons) M, Dip Ed, Kodaly Prim Lvl II
Violin/Viola Beginner to Advanced NECOM String Program
Ph: 0424 171 632
akelson@necom.org.au
LAWRENCE, Madeleine
L.Mus.A, A.Mus.A, ADMT (with Merit)
Piano/ Musicianship Beginners to diploma level; Former lecturer in musicanship at NSW Conservatorium & guest lecturer for HSC revision
courses Ph: 6772 1082
mlawrence-fairy@bigpond.com

McDONALD, Fiona
BA Hons, Dip Ed
Flute, Baroque Flute, Recorder Beginners to Advanced. Children & Adults.
Ph: 6772 8963
atholten@ozemail.com.au

McLACHLAN, Mary
Piano - Inverell only
Ph: 6722 3030

McNEILL, Paul
B.Mus (UNE), Piano - beginner to intermediate, all ages
Ph: 0400 304 025
pgmconell_1711@hotmail.com

METCALFE OAM Sue
L.Mus, DSME, FFCSM, DSCM
Cello, Accompanist (Strings only), Cello choir, Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6775 1165
Mob: 0419 225 236
pandsmetcalfe@bigpond.com.au

MICHELS-THORN, Cécile
MTeaching (Secondary), UNE Armidale Dip Recorder Recording (Netherlands); Cert. Musicianship (France)
Recorder – early childhood
Ph: 6772 5889
cmichel2@bigpond.com

MULLER, Clan
B.Mus (UNE) – current
Guitar – electric and acoustic
MOB: 0439 545 011
leechb304@hotmail.com

MYERS, Bruce
B.Mus, BTeach, FTCL, LMusA, Orff Trained
Conductor, Arranger and Brass Specialist for all levels and ages.
Mob: 0414 294 287
bruce.myers@det.nsw.edu.au

NEGREVICH, Nick
AMusA; DSCM, PGDIP(USQ)
Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet & Saxophone –NECOM Woodwind Program AMEB Examiner in Woodwinds
Mob: 0427 796 701
nnegerevich@necom.org.au

OLIVER, Ros
Early Childhood Music Teacher
Ph: 6721 0306
rosalindafuller@yahoo.com.au

PARKER, Robyn
Recorder - Beginners to advanced. Fontegara & Ribatutta Ens.
Musicianship/Theory
Ph: 6772 7976
Mob: 0407 228 840
robynsarker13@gmail.com

PULLEY, Laurie
Beginners to advanced; instrumental ensembles, orchestra, baritone soloist; classroom music;
Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6772 1124

PURCELL, Chris
Guitar - Classical and Blues; Director – New England Youth Guitar Ensemble; Director - Vocal Chords Community Choir
Ph: 6772 3265
chrispurcell2@bigpond.com

RICKARDS, Deidre
Pianist/ Accompanist Composition Teacher
Ph: 6771 1440
deidre@bigpond.com

ROACHE, Melita
BMus, 7th Grade Piano, 4th Grade Musicianship Piano – Beginner to intermediate
Theory/Musicianship. Adults & children. AMEB
Mo: 0421 640 996
melitaroache@gmail.com

ROBINSON, Helen
Dip.Mus.Ed, A.Mus.A
Piano – beginner to intermediate levels Inverell only
Ph: 6721 1519

ROOBOL, Leanne
B.Mus, A.Mus.A, Grad Dip.Ed
Director – New England Singers
Mob: 0427 712 514

ROWLANDS, Lindsay
B.A, Dip.Ed, M.Litt
Guitar – Classical, Electric, Folk; Ukulele; Bass – Electric; West African Percussion – Djembe; Shukuhachi - beginner
Mob: 0411 614 033
trowlands@exemail.com.au

RUSSELL, Errol
B.Mus, Dip.Ed, L.Mus.A, LTCL
Violin / Viola Former SSO
Chamber Music classes, Armidale String Quartet
Ph: 6772 5556
Mob: 0421 501 256

SCHMALZ, Jelena
Pipe Organ, Examination C for Church Organists (Berlin)
Ph: 6772 3803
lena.schmalz@web.de

SOUTHCOTT, Inge
B.Mus (Perf); M.Mus. (Vocal Pedagogy) M.B.B.S., BFA (Hons Ceramics)
Mezzo Soprano soloist, Beginners to advanced, all ages,
Voice/ Piano/ Accompanist
Ph: 6772 6279
Mob: 0431 188 310
ingen@necom.org.au

TREVES, Elliott
AMusA Drum kit, Didgeridoo, Tupan, Djembe, Cajon, & Djembe.
Mob: 0423 080 183
improvourgroove@gmail.com

TRELOAR, Anna
MA LTCL (T) MMTA
Piano, beginners to intermediate
skylinsteinudio70@yahoo.com

WALSH, Amy
B.Ed (Primary); Kodaly Cert 3
Director – NECOM Mini Singers
Mob: 0413 812 289
awalsh@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au

WATERS, Deirdre
B.Mus, 8th Grade Trumpet (AMEB Classical), All styles. From age 8 onwards. Trumpet – all levels, other Brass to intermediate.
Ph: 0421 778 565
benntreloar@gmail.com

WIGG, Barbara
ARCM
Piano - Teaching all grades from beginners to advanced level; Also all levels of musicianship.
Theory/Musicianship AMEB. Available to accompany both vocal and instrumental Inverell only.
Ph: 6722 2119
barbarawigg@bigpond.com

WOODHOUSE, Rob
BArts (UNSW)
Teaching Saxophone, Clarinet & Flute. Conductor and Arranger
Mob: 0425 212 874
woodyh@hihilite.com.au
### Profit and Loss Statement
#### For The Year Ended 30 June 2012

#### Income

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<th>2012</th>
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#### Less Expenses

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#### Profit Before Income Tax

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Relevant Capital Expenditure

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC LIMITED

I hereby declare, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 30 June 2012 there have been:

(i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and

(ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Name of Auditor: ______________________
Gerald Lawrence
Registered Company Auditor

Address: 40 James Street, Burleigh Heads Qld 4220
Dr Philip Arthur Rickards OAM Chairman  B. Agr. Sc. (Hons 1) Dip. Ag. Ec Hon. D. UNE
Professor Jennie Shaw Deputy Chair BA(Hons I) and University Medal, LLB (Hons I), MA, PhD
Cathy Archer Director  B.Agr Ed
John Brady Director M.Ed/Admin, BA(Hons), Grad.Cert.Ed
Lorraine Coffey Director Regional Manager, Fairfax Media
Robyn Driscoll Director Dip.Mus.Ed, L.Mus.A
Dr Bruce Menzies OAM Director MBBS, MRCGP, DCH, DRCOG
Susan Metcalfe OAM Director  L.Mus, DSME.FFCSME DSCM
Stuart Pavel Director B.Mus Ed
Jennifer Sholl Director BA (Melb); Primary Teachers Cert
Jacki Watts Director Councillor, Inverell Shire Council

NECOM Management

Director Susanne James
Program Manager Corinne Arter
Administration Officers Jan Kirk and Rachael Edmonds
Accounts Officer Heather Maciver
Administration Assistant Heather Pavel
Inverell Co-ordinator Michèle Jedlicka

Teaching Staff

String
Marion Barford violin and viola
Charlotte Hayes cello
Alexandra Hiew violin and viola

Woodwind
Wendy Champion (Inverell, Warialda) flute, clarinet, saxophone
Nick Negerevich flute, piccolo, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon
Robert Woodhouse flute, clarinet, saxophone

Brass
David Brown all brass
Alastair Finco French Horn
Bruce Myers horn, trumpet, trombone
Benn Tracey trumpet

Early Childhood
Peta Bale Armidale and Walcha
Phil Oxley Armidale
Ros Oliver NECOM Inverell Campus and Ross Hill PS

Choral
Mini Singers Amy Walsh
Cantilena & Chorale Rowena Tall
New England Singers Leanne Roobol
New England Singers Chamber Choir Leanne Roobol
STARZ (Inverell) Ruth Strutt, Miranda McHattan, Stephanie Marshall
Accompanists Julia Booth, Robyn Bradley, Naomi O’Herne, Ruth Strutt

Wind Ensemble
Junior Winds Nick Negerevich
Senior Winds Robert Woodhouse

Orchestral Ensembles
Armidale Youth Chamber Strings April Kelson
Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble Nick Negerevich
Armidale Youth Orchestra Warwick Dunham

Music Therapy Natalie Nugent

Contemporary Music Colin McKinley (Inverell)
‘this little oasis of musical euphoria’

The ‘kids’ are so excited by music at NECOM and they have these fantastic role models of staff who honestly believe in the magic of chamber music. It sounds all a little too good to be true but this little oasis of musical euphoria would do well to be cloned and taken to as many regional centres as possible. The kids have such a healthy respect for each other and the music, as well as a real desire to fulfil their role in society as musicians and bring great music into the world. I have to say – I have the NECOM bug!

Zoe Knighton, The Flinders Quartet