



Newsletter

Term 3

September 2023



Term 3 news from the Executive Director

Hello to the Mitchell Conservatorium Community.

Term 3 has flown by and it has certainly been incredibly busy with AMEB exams, the local eisteddfod, concerts, musicals, a cabaret, scholarship auditions, recitals and lessons. It takes a community effort to make all these things happen and I would like to thank the staff, students, parents, music supporters and audiences on their commitment to music and music education. Many of our teaching staff have gone above and beyond in their efforts to support students and ensembles.

As someone who has been a music teacher for most of my adult life I understand the frustrations, the exhaustion, the long hours, the disappointments, but also the joy, the satisfaction and excitement that musical activities can bring to both teachers and students. Playing a musical instrument is wonderful lifelong skill to have. I encourage you all to keep trying and never give up. You will not be sorry!

Term 4 will be another busy one with our Concerto & Aria Showcase, Scholarship Winners' Concert, Bathurst Chamber Orchestra Spring Twilight Concert, and CONnections Big Band and Mitchell Conservatorium Concert Band performances. The year 2023 will then end with a fitting finale as Mitchell Conservatorium presents the Reliance Bank Community Carols by Candlelight in Machattie Park on Sunday 10th December. There is so much to look forward to, so we hope to see you at some or all of these fabulous events.

Don't miss it! Our 2023 Scholarship Winners' Concert, 2pm, Saturday 4th November 2023, Walshaw Hall

In one of the highlights of the Mitchell Conservatorium performance calendar, 2023 scholarship winners will take part in a grand concert at Walshaw Hall highlighting their musical achievements and progress over the past twelve months.

An array of instrumentalists and vocalists will showcase music from many different centuries and comprising many different styles. Come and hear your favourite student performer in an afternoon concert that celebrates music and community and all the good things that MitCon has to offer.



All welcome. Entry is by donation at the door – get there early for the best seats!

A busy time for the Bathurst Chamber Orchestra

Bathurst Chamber Orchestra players are rehearsing furiously for two November concerts. In the first, a **Spring Twilight Concert at 5pm on Saturday 11th November 2023 at Bathurst Uniting Church**, players will perform music by Haydn, Sibelius, Elgar and others, as well the beautiful and uplifting Viola Concerto by Telemann featuring BCO concertmaster and MitCon teacher Nicholas Newell as soloist. Just over two weeks later the players will come together for the **Concerto & Aria Showcase at 2.30pm on Sunday 26th November at All Saints' Cathedral**. Inspiring Conservatorium students will sing and play their way through glorious music from three centuries, including that by Bach, Telemann, Mozart, Haydn and Bellini. In both concerts the orchestra will be augmented by two French horns and two oboes – a real treat for players and audience alike. More details:

<https://mitchellconservatorium.edu.au> or telephone 6331 6622

*It's on again ... MitCon's annual Carols by Candlelight
celebration in wonderful Machattie Park*

Invite your relatives, tell your friends, warm up your voices... before you know it, the Christmas season will be upon us and that means Mitchell Conservatorium's annual Reliance Bank Community Carols by Candlelight in Machattie Park **7 to 9pm Sunday 10th December**. As always there will be great line-up of vocalists and musical events, including the popular carol singalong, with music provided by the Bathurst City & RSL Concert Band and CONnections Big Band. Swing and sing your way through the Christmas season and beyond.



*Bathurst Gardeners' Club Spring Spectacular Open Gardens
Weekend, 28th & 29th October 2023*

Come and hear an array of MitCon students and ensembles taking part in this popular annual event. The Conservatorium Concert Band, Fiddlesticks, Stringendo and harpist Paris Masters will join an array of Bathurst groups – including the Bathurst City & RSL Band, BAM Stage Band, Bathurst City & RSL Junior Band, Wing It Jazz and Wing it Jazz Junior Bands, U3A Ukuleles, U3A Recorders, Mackillop College School Groups and Choir, St Stanislaus Musicians, Panorama Chorus and the Canobolas Pipe Band – to make this a unique and fun event for all involved.



What better way to spend a spring weekend in Bathurst than to look at beautiful gardens and listen to beautiful music?

Congratulations to all our AMEB candidates

Each year our teachers and students work hard to ready students' pieces and technical work for Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) exams held at the Con's Havannah St premises. Not all students choose to take the path of AMEB examinations but, for those who do, this is a busy time of the year. This year over a dozen MitCon instrumental and vocal students (and a large number from schools, other teachers and the community) put themselves forward for exams. Regardless of the results (and there were many outstanding results), we are proud of all our students and of the teachers and parents who teach and support them. Congratulations to all!

...and congratulations to the winners of 2024 Mitchell Conservatorium Scholarships

Paris Masters, Harp
Janelle Lindsay, Voice
Charles Croaker, Piano
Thomas Jordan-Downes, Trumpet
Toby Gough, Voice
Olivia Bellamy, Voice
Augustine Cox, Piano
Sophie Lindsay, Violin
Benji Naylor, Flute
Ash Dineen, Clarinet
Theodore Gowans, Piano

Encouragement Award

Annika Classnitz, Piano
Aarav Shah, Guitar

Cabaret evenings hit the spot

Audiences enjoyed a night of jazz, song and sass at Keystone 1889 on 21st and 22nd July. Hosted by the incomparable Janelle Lindsay OAM, *Cabaret Con Voces* featured the Conservatorium's senior vocal students, vocal ensemble VOX, and CONNections jazz band. The evening was so successful that plans are already underway for another cabaret event in 2024.



Not to be missed in October!

1920s Movie Night

Thursday, October 19th
Keystone, 99 Keppel St
Bathurst
6pm doors, 7pm show

An evening of spooky
1920s movie classics
With live piano music
by Michelle Griffen

Tickets: \$25 Adults
\$20 Concession

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Exciting times for our Lithgow campus

MitCon music programs in the Lithgow LGA are going from strength to strength! ZigZag Public School Band is in its 2nd term of tuition with Marc Brown and is making great musical strides. The Band has 10 keen students playing a range of brass and woodwind instruments.

But that's not all! Chords for Connection (pictured) free electric guitar tuition at Lithgow High School commenced in week 3, and five lucky Lithgow High School year 7 and 8 students are receiving weekly 30-minute individual lessons plus a 45-minute group session from Trevor Baker, right through to the end of 2023.



This initiative is fully funded by the Energy Australia NSW Mt Piper Community Grant Program; students are provided with tuition at no cost, plus a Yamaha electric guitar package and all accessories and resources required. On completion of the semester they get to keep the instruments. Many thanks to David McLeod for his work in securing this funding.

We continue to receive great feedback from schools in the Lithgow LGA with active programs being delivered in Lithgow LGA small schools – thanks to Gaye Thomas and Marc Brown. St Patrick's Lithgow students and parents continue to engage with music tuition across a range of instruments – special thanks to Frances Mcleod, Graeme Hunt and Gaye Thomas. Pete Armstrong is teaching a number of guitar students at Coerwull Public and Lithgow Public. Outside of School activity at the Lithgow premises includes Individual Tuition, Music Therapy Groups, Performance coaching for the HSC and advanced exams, Lithgow City Orchestra rehearsals and occasional workshops. Among others, MitCon is very grateful to Lyn Phillips, Carolyn Miller, Todd Brownlow, Peter Avery, Jamie Briton, Graeme Hunt, Gaye Thomas, Abby Smith, Mel Waters and Martyn Cook.



MitCon teacher profile - Samantha Schoeler-Jones

Samantha Schoeler-Jones has been teaching flute at Mitchell Conservatorium since 2007, but what do we really know about her? Read on to find out...

Samantha completed a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at Western Australian Conservatorium of Music with Richard Gill (OAM) as Dean in 1991. During her time in Perth she performed with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

In 1995 Samantha was accepted into the Franz Liszt Hochschule für Musik in Weimar, Germany, to complete further studies with Professor Robert Winn, former Principal Flautist of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London. In 1997 she moved to Berlin to study Music Therapy at the Insitut für Musiktherapie. Returning to Australia in 2004 Samantha decided to combine her experience as a music therapist with music education and completed a Diploma in Secondary Education. Between 2007 and 2017 she worked as a classroom music specialist in the Blue Mountains with the Department of Education, teaching recorder ensembles in a number of schools in the Blue Mountains, as well as conducting choir and school band programs. In 2016 Samantha was invited to become a mentor for the National Music Teachers Mentoring Program under the auspices of the late Richard Gill OAM. A major highlight for Samantha during her employment with the Education Departmen was to be invited to conduct 700 recorders for the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney Opera House in 2014 and 2015. Presently Samantha divides her time between teaching flute and recorder at the Mitchell Conservatorium and being employed as a Registered Music Therapist (RMT) in South West Sydney, supporting vulnerable families and children and providing professional development in the early childhood sector. Further to this Samantha specialises in early intervention supporting neuro-divergent children and children with disabilities 0-12yrs.

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Mitchell Conservatorium acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people, the ongoing cultures and connections with the lands and water of the country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge contributions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians to the inclusion and empowerment of all people in a country we live in and share together.