



Newsletter

Term 1

February 2025



## *Term 1 welcome from Executive Director Andrew Smith*



Hello to the MitCon community and welcome to term 1, 2025!

This year marks a hundred years since the beginnings of electrical recording techniques. This was certainly a major advance in music technology which has made music globally accessible. The first quarter of the 21st century has seen these advances change at meteoric pace with digital technologies changing the way music is created, performed, accessed and experienced.

However, while the mediums which produce music have continued to evolve, the fundamentals and mechanics of music remain the same. While music creation has been made easier by technology, good music requires engaging musicians and composers who know their craft and are skilled in the language of music.

This, of course, is where MitCon comes in. We have so many opportunities for anyone at any level of musical skill or knowledge to experience quality instrumental instruction, play or sing in ensembles, experience concerts as a performer or audience member, and evolve as a connected member of our diverse and inclusive musical community.

MitCon has a staff of highly skilled and well-educated teachers who maintain the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. Our organisation is committed to Professional Development for our teaching staff to support these ideals.

Music matters in our community, so connect with us at MitCon and realise your musical ambitions in a quality environment.

## 2025 Enrolment Information

### 2025 Mitchell Conservatorium terms (40 weeks)

**Term 1:** Monday 3rd February to Saturday 12th April (10 weeks)

**Term 2:** Monday 28th April to Saturday 5th July (10 weeks)

**Term 3:** Monday 21st July to Saturday 27th September (10 weeks)

**Term 4:** Monday 13th October to Saturday 20th December (10 weeks)

Full enrolment details, conditions and forms may be found on our Facebook page or on our website: [www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](http://www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au)

### 2025 Early Childhood Music classes

Early Childhood Classes return in 2025 with Elissa Jones guiding children and parents through the world of music in a welcoming and fun environment. It's also a great way to meet other young families and socialise each week. In term 1, Mitchell Conservatorium is again offering four classes:

Early Childhood Music class for **children aged 3-5 years**, Wednesdays 9:30-10am

Early Childhood Music class for **children aged 18 months to 3 years**, Wednesdays, 10:30-11am

Early Childhood Music Babies' class for **babies aged under 18 months**, Wednesdays, 11.15-11.45am

Family Fun Friday for **children aged 0 to 5 years and their families/carers**, Fridays, 9:30-10.15am



Further information and enrolment details and links can be found on our Facebook page or on our website: [www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au](http://www.mitchellconservatorium.edu.au)

## *Notice of the 2025 Mitchell Conservatorium Inc. Annual General Meeting*

Notice is hereby given that the 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Mitchell Conservatorium Inc. will be held on:  
Monday 17th March 2025 at 5.30pm at  
Mitchell Conservatorium, 130 Havannah Street, Bathurst  
All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting



### *MitCon's exciting new Musical Theatre Choir*

Bathurst Musical Theatre Choir is an ensemble for singers aged 13 and up who love all things musical theatre! Enjoy singing your musical theatre favourites in a fun and welcoming group while learning musical theatre technique, part singing and ensemble work. Singers of all skill levels are welcome! Join Michelle Griffin and like-minded singers and performers for this new choir at Mitchell Conservatorium, 6.30 to 7.30pm Thursdays. Inquiries: 6331 6622

### *Vote #1 MitCon!*

We are fortunate enough to be one of three entrants in this month's Greater Bank Community Funding Program. Organisations like MitCon rely on the community to help us keep doing our best. We can win a share of \$3000 which will go towards funding our programs, and we need your help to get us across the line! We would ❤️ you to vote for us ... and you can do it once a day, every day, and from any device! To vote for MitCon, go to [www.greater.com.au](http://www.greater.com.au) and click on the link to "Find your local program".

## *2025 Scholarship Recipients*

Congratulations to the following recipients of  
2025 scholarships at Mitchell Conservatorium!

Charles Croaker (piano), *Executive Director's Award*

Benji Naylor (flute), *Gardeners' Club Scholarship*

Paris Masters (harp), *Kirinari Scholarship*

Rodney Wallace (piano), *Mitchell Conservatorium Scholarship*

Bronson Hughes (guitar), *Lions Club Scholarship*

Janelle Lindsay (voice), *Reckless Brewery and  
Mitchell Conservatorium Scholarship*

Elliot Schubert-Wong (violin), *Rotary Club Scholarship*

Olivia Jones (French horn), *Rotary Daybreak Scholarship*

Toby Gough (voice), *Mitchell Conservatorium Scholarship*

Patrick Wright (guitar), *T & J Painting Services Scholarship*

Caitlyn Thew (harp), *Gardeners' Club Scholarship*

Harry White (piano), *Gardeners' Club Scholarship*

Charlotte McLeod (cello), *Quote Scholarship*

Alexander Cahyono (violin), *Rotary Club Scholarship*

Zanthe Pham (flute), *Raine & Horne Scholarship*

Abigail Brakell (clarinet), *Kirinari Scholarship*

Gianna Kendrick (voice), *Singer Under 18 Scholarship (anon.)*

*Blayney Scholarship Recipient: Augustine Cox (piano)*

### *Runners-up*

Aarav Shah (guitar)

Margaret McCusker-Roth (violin)

Abigail Cahyono (piano)

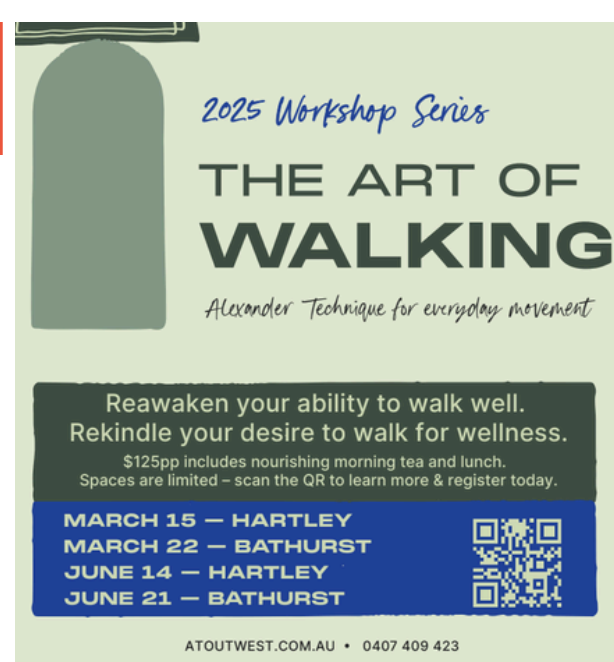
## Learn the Alexander Technique at MitCon

Experience the benefits of the Alexander Technique at MitCon this term with qualified teacher Elissa Jones. Frederick Matthias Alexander (1869-1955) was a performing artist who developed the technique to continue to pursue his life's dream - performing Shakespeare. The Alexander Technique's hallmarks are its creativity, spontaneity, and adaptability to change.

MitCon offers you the opportunity to learn the Alexander Technique in three formats in 2025:

- private 45 minute lessons on Fridays;
- a small group hour-long class on Tuesdays from 11.30 to 12.30 (details tbc);
- two workshops on 22nd March and 21st June.

The workshops will be run by A.T. Out West, a collaboration between Elissa and two other Alexander Technique teachers based in Lithgow and Katoomba. The workshops will introduce you to Alexander Technique principles to reawaken the ability to walk well and to rekindle a desire to walk for wellness. For more information or to book lessons or group classes, contact MitCon on 6331 6622; to find out more about "The Art of Walking" workshops or to book, contact A.T. Out West at [atoutwest.com.au](http://atoutwest.com.au) or on 0407 409 423.



2025 Workshop Series

# THE ART OF WALKING

Alexander Technique for everyday movement

Reawaken your ability to walk well.  
Rekindle your desire to walk for wellness.  
\$125pp includes nourishing morning tea and lunch.  
Spaces are limited - scan the QR to learn more & register today.

MARCH 15 - HARTLEY  
MARCH 22 - BATHURST  
JUNE 14 - HARTLEY  
JUNE 21 - BATHURST

ATOUTWEST.COM.AU • 0407 409 423



## Celebrate Valentine's Day with a movie night at Keystone!

This Valentine's Day, treat yourself and your loved one(s) to a night of elegance, charm, and nostalgia at our Valentine's Day Movie Night. The evening includes a delectable two-course romantic dinner to tantalise your taste buds, classic romantic comedies from Walt Disney, Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton (just perfect for movie enthusiasts!), and live piano music by MitCon's sensational Michelle Griffin, performing romantic favourites, jazz classics, and the vibrant sounds of the roaring twenties. Inquiries & bookings at [www.keystone1889.com](http://www.keystone1889.com) or telephone 6332 5492.

### *Welcome to Jan Rhodes*

Jan's love of music began as small child listening to her father sing with the Sydney Male Welsh Choir. From early foundations in Classical, Jazz and Celtic music, Jan has become an accomplished pianist and vocalist in bands and as a solo artist.

Jan's performance experience is eclectic and encompasses a wide variety of genres. Highlights include Sydney Harbour tourist cruises, musical theatre, 'Dirty Sox' Children's Show Band, 'Stormy Monday Big Band', a cappella choirs, Southern Highlands Orchestra & Concert Band, and with bands 'Brolgaz' & 'Currency Lads' that have taken Australiana and bush dancing to schools throughout NSW & QLD.



With professional qualifications in Teaching and Music, along with many years' experience as an Educator in schools and the corporate sector, Jan's approach is to nurture her students through the complexities of learning and make music fun!



### *Jamie Briton celebrates 35 years with us!*

MitCon timpani and percussion teacher Jamie Briton recently marked 35 years teaching with us. A recent small gathering at MitCon helped Jamie celebrate this huge milestone., including a special cake! Conversation included recollections of fond and humorous occasions from Jamie and MitCon staff. Throughout his time here, Jamie has unceasingly demonstrated his care, passion and incredible musicianship. A man of many talents, Jamie is proficient in percussion, tuned percussion, piano, carillon, composition, conducting - and the list goes on. He teaches students of every skill level, age and ability, and his inclusive approach to education has been a shining factor in his popularity. Jamie lives in the Blue Mountains and travels here every teaching day by train. Congratulations Jamie, and our wishes for many more teaching and playing years to come!

## *Farewell and thank you ...*

Sadly, we farewell two of our valued staff members who have moved on to pursue different opportunities and challenges in their lives.

**Kait Milgate** has taught saxophone at MitCon since 2023 and has also been an integral member of our CONnections Big Band ... and all the while successfully completing a Master of Education degree! Kait has secured a Department of Education teaching position in Mudgee, and we are sure her students there will reap the benefit of her skills, experience and lively personality in the same way as her MitCon students have here.



**James Whalan** has been a stalwart at our Forbes campus for many years, teaching singing and a variety of instruments and establishing himself as a well-liked and respected member of the Forbes community. As well as a talented musician, James is an ordained minister of the Uniting Church, and we wish him all the best for his ministry and his continuing involvement in music education.



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### **WEBSITE**

<https://mitchellconservatorium.edu.au>



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.