

# A new home for the RCM



**1**  
Simmons St

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## 1 Simmons Street, Wagga Wagga

### Introduction

The Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) is a community-based organisation providing music education and performance for the Riverina. It has programs to suit people of all ages and backgrounds, and provides over 150 classical and contemporary concerts each year. It is the largest professional arts organisation in the Riverina. The RCM has around 46 professional music education staff as well as administrative/support staff. It is a not-for-profit organisation which works under the direction of a local Board of Directors made up of locally elected people.

This document provides an introduction to our organisation, and some background to our move to our new home in the centre of our city. Please feel free to contact us with any questions:

**Postal Address:** PO Box 7290 Mt Austin, NSW, 2650

**Current Address:** The Blakemore Building,  
South Campus, Charles Sturt University,  
College Ave, Wagga Wagga, NSW. 2650

**Phone:** 02 6925 3522

**Web address:** [www.rivconmusic.org.au](http://www.rivconmusic.org.au)

Dr Andrew Wallace  
**Chair, RCM Board of Directors**

Mr Hamish Tait  
**CEO and Director**

### About the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM)

The Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) was established on South Campus in 1981 by the Riverina College of Advanced Education (RCAE), a predecessor of Charles Sturt University (CSU). The RCM was intended to make a valuable contribution to the Riverina community, and to be a vital resource for the ongoing work of the university in the region.

While the RCM continues to enjoy a strong partnership with CSU, the university has progressively reduced support for the RCM since 2012. At the cessation of the current lease in 2020, CSU will cease to have any financial commitments to the RCM, though aspects of the current partnerships between the RCM and CSU are expected to continue into the future.

The RCM is a company limited by guarantee. It is a member of the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums (ANSWRC), a group of seventeen independent organisations that provide music education and services to regional NSW. Core funding for the RCM comes from the NSW Government through the Department of Education and the *Regional Conservatoriums Grant Program*. This grant provides the essential administrative and educational support needed to deliver the programs at the RCM, especially with regard to music education in public schools.

The RCM is one of the largest NSW Regional Conservatoriums, recognised for excellence as a leader in distance teaching and the development of curriculum in music education. It is the only full-time professional arts organisation in the Riverina, and is the only provider of regular performances of classical music as well as a range of other music genres in the region. The RCM is supported by significant Australians as our patrons and these are listed below. They provide inspiration and support to the Riverina community.

## Patrons of the Riverina Conservatorium of Music

### Foundation Patron:

The Late Prof. Peter Sculthorpe AO OBE  
Australia's internationally known leading composer.



### Current Patrons:

Prof. Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO – Former Governor of NSW.



Mr Graham Abbott    Leading Australian Conductor, Music Educator and  
Broadcaster (ABC Classic FM).

The RCM teaches in excess of 1200 student places with students located across the wider Riverina. The RCM catchment currently stretches from Tumut and Tumbarumba in the Snowy Mountains to the east, through to Griffith, Deniliquin and Moama in the west. An indication of the size of the footprint of the RCM is given in the map below that shows all towns currently receiving regular video-based distance programs in music from the RCM in Wagga Wagga.

### All towns with schools engaged in video-based music pedagogies



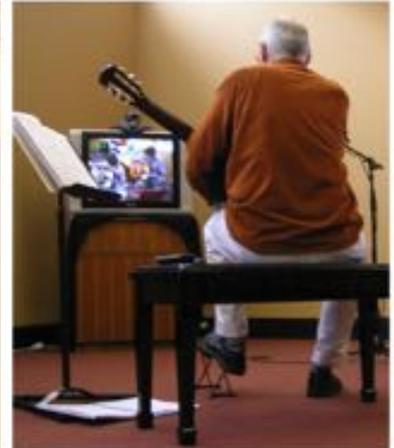
- |            |               |           |               |                |
|------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Moama   | 2. Deniliquin | 3. Leeton | 4. Narrandera | 5. Lockhart    |
| 6. Ganmain | 7. Coolamon   | 8. Junee  | 9. Tumut      | 10. Tumbarumba |

The current initiatives around curriculum and pedagogy at the RCM are highly regarded. The RCM has not only sought to reach distant and remote students, but has also sought to rebuild understandings of music education and principles of learning. The resultant new approaches to music education have enormous potential - transforming music education in this region and providing a role model of practice in our state. We are developing student-centred learning and reporting systems to support *National Curriculum* and the initiatives of the NSW State Government.

## Teaching and learning at the RCM



Distance pedagogies



Traditional activity





This site truly offers a unique opportunity for the RCM in our city. No other site in the city has attributes comparable with that offered at this location, with links to the cultural precinct, the CBD, transport routes, and the beauty of the Wollundry Lagoon.

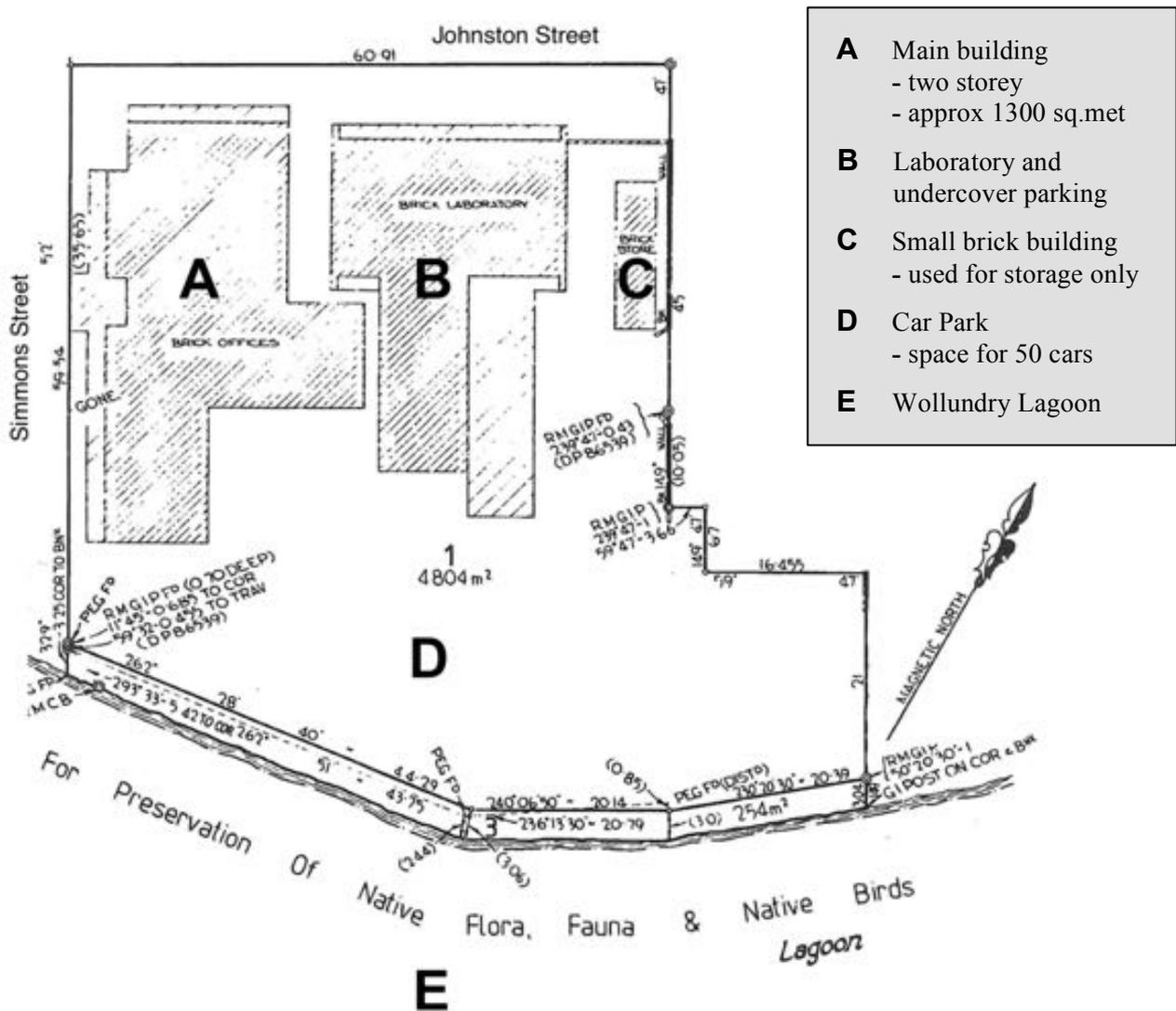
### Details of the Simmons Street site

The site has been under the ownership of the State Government since 1946. It has served the government as the site for the RTA and more recently as the RMS. It has been a major regional office and test laboratory over the last 70 years, but the RMS has now outgrown the site. The State Government has now provided it to our community for the new RCM.

The site has enormous potential. It is the intention of the RCM to refit Building A, and redevelop the area currently occupied by Buildings B and C. The current announcement concerns funding for the planning of Stage 1 - the refit of Building A as the teaching and learning hub of the RCM.

The planning with government at this stage RCM should be relocated to Building A by the end of next year (2019). We have begun our work on the final stage of the development (in the area occupied by Building B) with Mr Maguire and our State Government. A map of the site is provided below.

**The Simmons Street Wagga Wagga site documented by the original DMR plan.**



Relocating to this site is seen as transformative for the RCM, the surrounding environment, and the community at large. Given the high profile location within the cultural centre identified by WWCC, it will completely change the way the RCM is seen in the city and regional community, We will be visible to our community, in a safe accessible location near our city centre.

Further, the creative opportunities presented by the beautiful location within the lagoon aesthetic are immeasurable. The new site provides a range of opportunities for our whole community.

### **Artist impression of the final development of the RCM.**



The RCM is looking forward to our work on our new and permanent site. It is a wonderful gift to our community in the Riverina, and to Wagga Wagga in particular. The RCM is deeply indebted to our local member, Mr. Daryl Maguire for the work and inspiration for this initiative. He has encouraged us to develop the concepts for this initiative. He has argued for this site to be kept in community hands, and has actively advocated for our vision with our State Government. We are also thankful for the support and encouragement of our premier, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian, and her cabinet for this local initiative.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Mr. Maguire announced the relocation of the RCM to the Simmons Street site. The government has provided \$10 mill to activate Stage 1 of the project. This stage includes planning for the whole site and the redevelopment of the Building A as the main teaching and learning space for the RCM. The RCM is currently working with Mr. Maguire and our government to finalise Stage 2 of our development, which will include the music recital space identified in the press release attached below. It will also include a number of other initiatives to support our work in the region.

Please feel free to contact the RCM if you have questions about the RCM, our programs, or our recent announcements. Contact details are provided on Page 1 of this document.





16 February 2018

# **Daryl Maguire MP**

*Member for Wagga Wagga*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NEW HOME FOR THE RIVERINA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC**

Daryl Maguire MP, Member for Wagga Wagga, alongside Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) Board Chairman Dr Andrew Wallace and RCM Director Hamish Tait today announced that the RCM has secured a permanent new home at 1 Simmons St, Wagga Wagga.

Mr Maguire said RCM's move into the former RSM facility is due to an impending lease expiry in 2020 at Charles Sturt University, where they are currently located.

"The building will be redeveloped to house a world class music recital space and its within close proximity to the existing cultural precinct in the City of Wagga Wagga, it will be an excellent addition," Mr Maguire said.

RCM Director Hamish Tait, said the new building will secure the future of musical education and performance across the Riverina now and for future generations.

"It will provide world class cultural infrastructure for the whole community and it will be the premier performance venue for classical music across all of regional NSW."

"It will attract visiting musicians nationally and internationally and will also provide the cultural sector employment and significant economic stimulation for the City and region." said Mr Tait.

RCM Chair Dr Andrew Wallace expressed his gratitude to the Member for Wagga Wagga for this vision and commitment to ensure Wagga Wagga and the Riverina has a superior conservatorium of music.

'On behalf of the RCM board and staff we would like to acknowledge that this announcement would not have been possible without the tireless support of Mr Maguire. "

RCM was established in 1981 by the Riverina College of Advanced Education, today the institution teaches more than 1200 students scattered across the Riverina via video based programs.

RCM is one of the largest NSW Regional conservatoriums and employs around 46 professional music education teachers and admin staff.